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India captain Virat Kohli congratulates Pakistan's Mohammed Rizwan for his team's win in Dubai | AP

An unbroken first-wicket stand between skipper Babar Azam and Mohammed Rizwan took Pakistan to their first-ever victory against India in a men's World Cup (T20 and 50-over format). Chasing 151 runs, they romped home in 17.5 overs without losing a wicket | P13

IN THE FIRST MATCH, SRI LANKA CHASED DOWN BANGLADESH'S 171 WITH FIVE WICKETS IN HAND. ASALANKA TOP-SCORED WITH 80.

CANTER HOME COMFORTABLY

In the past, the rivals have tended to get nervous. Not in Dubai. Both skipper Azam, who made 68, and Rizwan (79), showed uncharacteristic discipline, treated balls on merit and went for calculated big shots.

SHAHEEN'S OPENING BURST

One of the best white-ball bowlers, left-arm pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi showed what he's all about removing Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul in successive overs. He came back to remove Kohli to finish with figures of 3/31.

KOHLI'S COUNTER CHARGE

The Indian skipper, never been dismissed before against Pakistan in T20 World Cups, stamped his authority with a straight six against Afridi. His 57 and Rishabh Pant's 39 helped India reach 151/7.

TODAY'S MATCH

Afghanistan vs **Scotland**
(7.30pm in Sharjah)

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Manchester United vs Liverpool

One of the hottest properties in world football, **Mo Salah**, again served notice with a brace and an assist in a sensational first-half burst. Liverpool were four goals to the good at half-time.

Barcelona vs Real Madrid

Shorn of Lionel Messi for the first time in this fixture for more than 15 years, the Catalans struggled after a bright opening. As a result, Real Madrid won 2-1.

China legalises its LAC transgression

Permits use of weapons against 'illegal crossers'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

IN what is being read as a direct poke at India with which it is locked in a long stand-off across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, China's legislature filled a legal gap by adopting its first national law to protect and exploit its land border areas.

The Land Border Law that was approved at the legislative session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on Saturday, stipulates that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China are sacred and inviolable. Till now, China was committing border aggression with insufficient legislative framework. The new law fills that gap, experts opined.

The law, which becomes operational from January 1 next, says the state shall combat any act that undermines territorial sovereignty and land boundaries. The Chinese military, it says, shall "resolutely prevent, stop and combat invasion, encroachment, provocation and other acts" on its land borders.

It permits the use of weapons against those who illegally cross borders to commit physical assault, resist arrest or engage in other violent activities.

On a comparatively sober note, the law adds that the state shall, following the principle of equality, mutual trust and friendly consultation, handle land border affairs with neighbouring countries through negotiations to properly resolve disputes and longstanding border issues.

Four-day Army conference

A four-day Army Commanders' Conference will begin in Delhi on Monday. It is expected to review all security challenges, including in eastern Ladakh and other sensitive areas along the LAC

"The state shall build basic facilities for blockade, transportation, communication, monitoring, deterrence, defence and assistance when needed. Basic border facilities, apart from defending the country's sovereignty, shall support economic and social development as well protecting natural resources and the environment," it states.

Even before adopting the law, China has been constructing villages close to the LAC and making them part of its border defence infrastructure. While Beijing has land borders with 14 countries, it's only with India and Bhutan that it is yet to sign border accords.

SRK GOT ₹25-CR BRIBE CALL, CLAIMS WITNESS

Signed on blank papers

Sail claimed that Wankhede made him sign on 10 blank papers while being named as a witness. He also alleged that Gosavi had sought ₹25 crore, but settled for ₹18 crore, of which ₹8 crore was meant for Wankhede

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

A key witness in the cruise drugs case involving Aryan Khan on Sunday alleged that NCB zonal director Sameer Wankhede and others had demanded ₹25-crore bribe from Shah Rukh Khan for his son's release. For his part, Wankhede denied the claims and sought the Mumbai Police's protection from precipitate legal action.

Witness Prabhakar Sail released a video and a notarised affidavit claiming that after Aryan's detention, he overheard a phone conversation between Shah Rukh's manager Pooja Dadlani and K P Gosavi and one Sam D'Souza, demanding ₹25 crore to release Aryan. Sail was in the car as he was Gosavi's bodyguard. It was Gosavi's selfie with Aryan that had gone viral. He is absconding.

Deputy Director General of NCB Mutha Ashok Jain said though Wankhede had denied the claims, some contentions of the affidavit were matters of vigilance probe. The affidavit would be forwarded to NCB's Director-General, Mutha said.

Investment tap flowing in J&K: Shah

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said Jammu and Kashmir has already drawn an investment of ₹12,000 crore, which would likely reach a total of ₹51,000 crore by 2022-end. Addressing a gathering of BJP workers in Jammu on Day-2 of his visit, Shah assured the region would not be sidelined anymore, but jointly developed with Kashmir.

Taking a swipe at the Abdullah, Mufti and Gandhi families, Shah said *dadagiri* (intimidation) of three families would no longer work in J&K. "When we introduced the new industrial policy, the three families exploiting you mocked us asking who will come and invest here. But due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts, ₹12,000 crore investment has come," he said.

Terming the scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A as historic, he said, "Lakhs of citizens got their due rights. Discrimination towards Sikhs, Valmiki Samaj and West Pakistan refugees has ended. "I wished to fulfill Syama Prasad Mukherjee's one country, one law, one leader and one symbol dream. Under Modi's leadership, we can fulfill it," he added. P10

Geopolitical policy can't be dogma, must keep revisiting it: IAF chief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN the background of rapidly evolving relations among nations in India's neighbourhood, Air Chief Marshal **VR Chaudhari** on Sunday said India's policy on geopolitical alignment has stood the country in good stead, but it cannot become dogma, and needs to be continuously reexamined and reevaluated with the changing environment.

At the concluding ceremony of the Swarnim Vijay Divas conclave to commemorate the golden jubilee of the India-Pakistan war in 1971, the Indian Air Force chief, citing discussions during the three-day meet attended by senior officers from IAF, Army, Navy, Ministry of External Affairs and strategic experts, said the world order has changed from bipolar to unipolar, to multipolar one. There cannot be a 'one-size-fits-all' solution, which is why India's geostrategic outlook needs to be refined accordingly, he pointed out. "Our vibrant diversity as a nation gives us an inherent flexibility and we must leverage this in making connections across the region," he said.

He emphasised the need to be future-ready to meet dynamic changes in the nature and scope of modern warfare along with the need to synergise planning processes and objectives to increment the net national power. P7

NATIONWIDE	OCT 23	OCT 24
Fresh cases	16,326	15,906
Recoveries	17,677	16,479
Deaths	666	561

KARNATAKA	OCT 23	OCT 24
Fresh cases	371	388
Recoveries	342	586
Deaths	7	5

EXPRESS READ

2 die after drinking contaminated water in Vijayapura

VIJAYAPURA: Two people allegedly died after drinking contaminated water at Yeragal village in Vijayapura district on Sunday. The victims have been identified as Neelamma Benkannavar (65) and Basavaraj Malagi (21). Four others showed symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting, but they are out of danger. Zilla Panchayat officials, however, said, "The two succumbed due to other health issues." P7

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METRO MISHAP

An aerial view of the girder after one of its legs slipped from a pier during construction work at BTM Layout, on Sunday

Launch girder's support leg slips, no casualties

The incident occurred during the work on double decker flyover

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A mechanical failure occurred nearly 50 feet above the ground at BTM Layout during Metro construction work on Sunday morning when the support leg of a 260-tonne launching girder deployed for constructing the double decker flyover of the RV Road-Bommasandra line slipped and got distorted. There were no reports of casualties or injuries as the operations of the girder were carried out by remote control.

The launching girder was being set up for laying spans between piers to form the bridge on 19.15-km elevated line of the Reach-5 line of Metro Phase-II when the incident occurred at 6.15 am, near the Udupi Garden signal. While resting on a pier, one support leg of the girder slipped and ended up resting over the pier directly.

The line is being constructed for Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) by a joint venture between Hindustan Construction Company Ltd and URC Construction Private Ltd.

A senior Metro official told *TNIE*, "A total of 130 spans (structures connecting piers) are being laid along this stretch. We have completed 90 spans. The incident occurred when the span connecting piers 145 and 146 were completed. The preparatory work to set the launching girder between piers 146 and 147 was on when the supporting leg of the girder slipped."

Officials claim that the girder collapsed due to mechanical failure near the Udupi Garden signal | SHRIRAM BN

The spans were being laid for both levels of the road-cum-rail-flyover, he added. BMRCL Managing Director Anjum Parwez said there were workers behind the girder and engineers at the ground level. "It was an accident and has happened for the first time when laying a Metro elevated line. The girder slipped in front and so no one was injured. Since it is operated by remote control, no one was close to it," he said.

A total of three piers are required for the girder to rest, the MD said. "Since it had completed laying of the spans in one portion and was moving on to do it in the next portion, it was rested only on two piers and was moving forward when it slipped. It has been bent and brought down by four cranes that can carry up to 1,500 tonnes of load."

Work will stop temporarily for a few days. "Three other launching girders are working along the line. We will be completing work on the line using them. BMRCL will do a thorough re-check of the three girders before resuming construction work," Parwez said.

The Jayadeva Metro Interchange Station of the Reach-5 line will connect it with the Nagavara-Kalena Agrahara line (Reach-6). The flyover will rise to 31 meters, making it the tallest flyover in South India.

Sewage pools wash up in Kalkere

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

PEOPLE residing on the crossroads of Kanakagiri,in Kalkere village, near Horamavu, struggle to step out of their houses. Waiting outside are stagnant sewage water pools. Their misery is a completely man-made disaster, they say.

Residents of 8th, 9th, and 10th Cross are badly affected due to the sewage. According to them, a local landlord, K P Vinod Kumar, has allegedly diverted sewage flowing from a drain near his guesthouse to another drain that is unable to bear the discharge load and overflows.

"Imagine our plight. We have spent between Rs 70 lakh and Rs 80 lakh on our homes here. And when we step out, the water outside is full of worms. It is not rainwater but sewage

A resident of Kanakagiri

A resident explained that the untreated sewage from two apartment complexes is let into Kanakagiri Main Road and the flow gets blocked near the guesthouse. It is diverted to Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna Road through narrow drains and then flows into Kalkere Lake, he said.

"The stench is unbearable. We dare not open our doors or windows. Daily life has become extremely tough. Imagine the impact this will have on our health, said a resident.

Vinod Kumar, the proprietor of Vinod Guest House, located at the junction of KSR Road and Kalkere Main Road, denies his role."I am a commoner like everyone. I did not use any political influence. BBMP on their own did this diversion recently when I brought the issue of water stagnating in front of my house to the attention of the local engineers here," he said.

Vikram S, Assistant Engineer, BBMP, conceded that a drain had been diverted near the guest house. "It was only a diversion of 20 ft to 30 ft. After the gap, it has been routed again to the drain it is supposed to go. It is not the reason for any problems."

He also said that tenders have been called for by BBMP to create a drainage and road network across 110 villages, including Kalkere. "Work will begin on October 25 and within three or four months, residents will get some relief here," he said.

FESTIVE FERVOUR

Time to splurge but rise in prices a dampener

BENGALURU SPEND

Percent of households

80 % Smartphones, consumer electronics, white goods and appliances

38 % Home renovation

74 % Beauty and apparel

9 % Cosmetics

33 % Shoes, accessories

* Overlap in categories

CHETANA BELAGERE @ Bengaluru

THIS festive season, a majority of households (around 50 per cent) of Bengaluru is opening up purse strings, but is budget-conscious with prices of petrol, diesel and essential commodities cutting into the wallet. A survey, 'Mood of the Consumer', done by online platform

LocalCircles, released on Sunday across 10 cities, claims to have seen a huge improvement in consumer sentiment.

According to the survey, the percentage of households planning to spend this season jumped from 30 per cent in May 2021 to 60 per cent in September 2021, as Covid-19 cases drastically reduced and economic certainty improved.

The survey showed that smartphones, consumer electronics, white goods and appliances, home renovation and devices upgrade are some of the big-ticket purchases in the top 10 cities. The survey focuses on shopping criteria for Bengaluru households, mode of shopping and categories of products. The study received over 1,95,000 responses from 61,000 households from Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Pune, Gurugram and Noida. "In the past 30 days, households from 10 cities have been sharing concerns on rising prices of fuel and essentials, and their focus on budget when shopping in this festive season on various online communities...," LocalCircles founder Sachin Taparia told *TNIE*.

One in two households in Bengaluru said top shopping criteria is budget, and high prices of petrol, diesel and essentials. "12 per cent of Bengaluru households said 'convenience' will be the top criteria, 50 per cent said 'budget/value', 26 per cent said 'safety', 6 per cent said 'selection or range' while 6 per cent couldn't say," said the report.

Incidents of mugging and harassment of women are rampant at the underpass near Hoodi Railway Station, say residents

Unlit Hoodi underpass risky for commuters

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE absence of sufficient lighting at the railway underpass near the Hoodi Railway Station has made night commuting along this stretch, a dangerous affair for commuters.

Though the underpasses are constructed by the Railways, they are later handed over to the BBMP for maintenance purposes.

Pradeep, a resident of an apartment which is located near the underpass, recalled an incident in which a housemaid in the apartment was subjected to harassment at the hands of miscreants near the underpass. "There is a need for lighting here. It is dangerous for women commuters especially at night, " he told *TNIE*. L Ravikumar another resident recalled an incident in which a food delivery agent requested him not to give cash but to transfer the money to his account. "The agent told us that previous night, a miscreant threatened him with a knife. Fearing his life, he handed over all the money he had, but his pillion rider didn't have any money and the attacker slashed his hand with a knife and sped away," Ravikumar recalled.

"We have often seen a few vehicles parked near the underpass and people who are heavily drunk. Our apartment is just near to it and it is quite risky for the public to take the route," the resident recalled. BBMP Roads Infrastructure Chief Prahlad Rao told TNIE, "I will instruct my engineers and ensure there is sufficient lighting there in future." Whitefield Law and Order Inspector Girish said he's new to his job. "Since this issue has been brought to my notice, I will look into it."

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

25th October: I'm going to deal with one of my favourite themes and raise some commonly asked questions about astrology this week. First, is the vexed problem of how it works. The fact is that we don't know! But then we don't know how gravity works – or electricity for that matter. That doesn't stop us using it, though!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Another week, another Monday, and what this means for you is a sensible, efficient and organised beginning. Underneath it all, the Moon is in a supportive mood, so everything needs to be taken one step at a time. Yet you can count on getting your own way at home.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Six out of a possible ten planets are in directly supportive positions, backing your interests. That's not a bad tally! You should be able to take life at your own pace today, so anyone who tries to pressurise you could be out of luck. Make the most of any passing good fortune!

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Home and domestic matters are bound to take up a fair bit of your time and, even if you're at work, the best way to get on with colleagues will be to imagine you're all part of one big family. Not a perfectly happy one necessarily, but a family nonetheless!

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Make serious plans and take practical decisions. It has never been more important to look only at the significant details and put all your hopes, wishes and fantasies to one side. Don't be perturbed by delays. But do keep a very close watch on every detail concerning cash.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Although you may be preoccupied with the trivia of material survival, dwelling over questions such as how to save the odd bit of cash here and there, this is in fact a somewhat optimistic and adventurous time. All that is asked of you is that you take the right decisions.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
The Moon is well situated, strong, supportive and sympathetic. This is a welcome symbolic indication that you can have it all your own way at home, but only if you face up to hidden problems and deep undercurrents. People who think differently should soon be made to apologise for their errors!

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Something secret could be bothering you today. Just what this could be is far from clear, but it could be connected with regret for affairs which didn't work out. Stop being such a perfectionist and realise that you can't relive the past - at least, not now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Social influences are looking very pronounced today, if a little serious. What you need from friends now seems to be a sense that they're going to look after you, or provide emotional security. I know this may be asking too much – but I'm sure you can cope!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Career and professional affairs now require their fair share of attention, all the more so if you are laying your own ideas on the line. With just a little shove in the right direction it looks as if your past efforts could be about to bring the desired rewards.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
After last week's energetic stars, this week's point to a shift of gear. You may therefore feel that you have a right to sit down and put your feet up, but any spare time is likely to be disrupted by the need to swing straight back into action.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You still seem to imagine nobody else understands you. The key is to listen very carefully to what your imagination is trying to tell you rather than always trying to ignore it. There's just no time to stick your head in the sand - so don't!

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
You always find criticism difficult, for you allow it to undermine your confidence. However, nothing would do you more good at the present time than a little friendly advice. Romantically, by the way, you could soon be on to a total winner.

THE PHANTOM

HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY

YOU REALLY SHOULD CLEAN UP THE CLUTTER ON YOUR DESK
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, SIR
SIGN THOSE ORDERS, REVIEW LT. FUZZ'S REPORT, INITIAL THE INVOICES, FILL YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS, PICK UP YOUR SUITS...

BLONDIE

I'D LIKE THREE SHIRTS...EACH WITH ONE BIG BUTTON
HUH? UHH...WE'D PROBABLY HAVE TO SPECIAL ORDER THOSE
BUT I'VE ALWAYS BOUGHT MY BIG-BUTTON SHIRTS HERE!
I'M NEW HERE... BUT BETWEEN US...IT'D BE CHEAPER TO BUY 'EM ONLINE
THIS MUST BE MY DAY TO DEAL WITH WACKOS!
SHIRT MANIA

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE

SUDOKU

Hard: Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

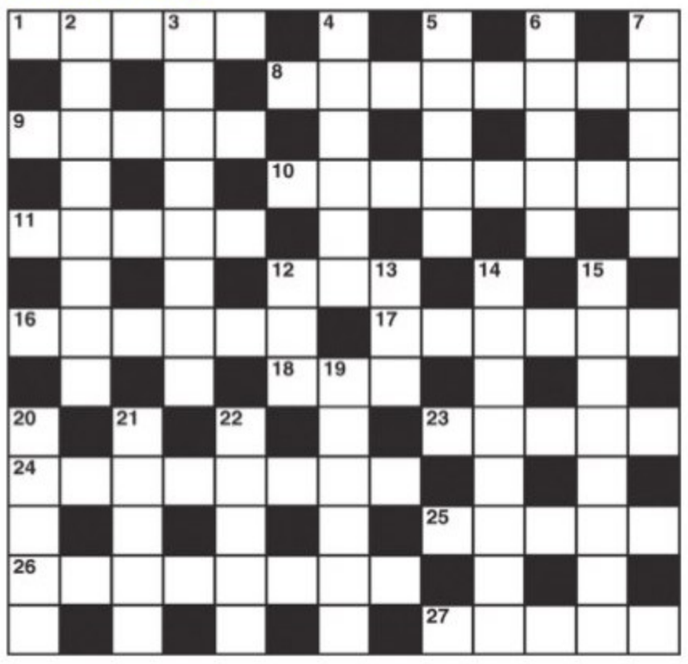
Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

				4	9	7		1
				5			6	
4			8			3		
2							3	7
9		3				1		6
7	6							8
		9			6			4
	2			3				
5		4	7	1				

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

9	8	6	1	4	3	7	2	5
4	2	5	6	7	8	3	1	9
1	7	3	5	2	9	6	4	8
6	5	4	2	3	1	9	8	7
2	3	9	7	8	4	5	6	1
7	1	8	9	6	5	4	3	2
8	9	1	4	5	6	2	7	3
5	4	7	3	1	2	8	9	6
3	6	2	8	9	7	1	5	4

CROSS WORD



ACROSS
1 Point to point express (5)
8 Furious ace fined for open disobedience (8)
9 The original winner (5)
10 Provided with wings but powerless to use them? (8)
11 Sounds tired of regular meals (5)
12 Stray from the proper route (3)
16 Goods thrown out from planes in the morning (6)
17 An aggressive female runner (6)
18 Runabout vessel (3)
23 West apart and scatter (5)
24 First phase of the Stone Age (5,3)
25 First jetliner to arrive at airport terminal (5)
26 Some rags torn from very thin material (8)
27 Condition of the nation (5)

DOWN
2 Inside man (8)
3 Busts are developed but not easily perceived (8)
4 Superior Spanish gentleman I accommodated (6)
5 Stiff attire I'd put on (5)
6 Girl has love in her heart for another (5)
7 Repairs many objects (5)
12 One may see one in the museum of Natural History (3)
13 Sped but wasn't really fast (3)
14 Something you may want to catch. Call in the Army (4,4)
15 Part of "The Clock' symphony? (8)
19 Something very like a campanologist (6)
20 States the time for practice (5)
21 She is in time (5)
22 Directions to a friend to find an Asian country (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS
Across: 1 Fatal error, 6 Taxi, 10 Turns, 11 Waterfall, 12 Estonian, 13 Agent, 15 Unifies, 17 Slimmer, 19 Baggage, 21 Petunia, 22 Alibi, 24 Shove off, 27 Train fare, 28 Taste, 29 Reel, 30 Beaten down.

Down: 1 Fate, 2 Thrashing, 3 Lasso, 4 Rowdies, 5 Outings, 7 Adage, 8 Idle threat, 9 Organist, 14 Dumb waiter, 16 Italians, 18 Manifesto, 20 Enslave, 21 Project, 23 Irate, 25 Eaten, 26 Neon.

JUMBLE

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LDUEE

BREET

DFAERO

INCORI

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Wow! I never considered that. It sounds great!
Doesn't that sound romantic?
I can be the mare of honor
SHE SUGGESTED THAT THEY GET MARRIED ON HORSEBACK, AND HE THOUGHT IT WAS A ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

Answer here: " "

ANSWERS TOMORROW

SATURDAY'S **Jumbles:**
POKER TRAWL CIRCUS NESTLE
ANSWER: To finish his book about the Continental Railroad soon, he'd need to stay – "write" on track

TRACKING COVID-19

SPEED AND RISE OF COVID-19 CASES IN KARNATAKA

388 CASES REPORTED TODAY
371 CASES REPORTED YESTERDAY

TALLY STANDS AT
TODAY 29,85,986
YESTERDAY 29,85,598

DEATHS
TODAY 5
YESTERDAY 7

The first Covid-19 case in Karnataka was reported on March 8, 2020. Since then until October 24, 2021, a total of 29,85,986 cases have been reported in 1 year and 229 days...

DISCHARGES
TODAY 586
YESTERDAY 342

Active cases
TODAY 8,711
YESTERDAY 8,891

POSITIVITY RATE
TODAY 5.95%
YESTERDAY 5.96%

The day positivity rate – **0.32%** – is calculated as the number of patients testing positive out of 100 tests conducted only in a day.

MORTALITY RATE
TODAY 1.27%
YESTERDAY 1.27%

RECOVERY RATE
TODAY 98.43%
YESTERDAY 98.42%

DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES
LAST 24 HOURS

194 BENGALURU URBAN | 5 BENGALURU RURAL

Bagalkot	0
Ballari	2
Belagavi	4
Bidar	3
Chamarajanagar	1
Chikkaballapur	1
Chikkamagaluru	7
Chitradurga	4
Dakshina Kannada	34
Davanagere	1
Dharwad	2
Gadag	0
Hassan	25
Haveri	0
Kalaburagi	0
Kodagu	6
Kolar	5
Koppal	0
Mandya	5
Mysuru	23
Raichur	0
Ramanagara	3
Shivamogga	12
Tumakuru	37
Udupi	4
Uttara Kannada	10
Vijayapura	0
Yadgir	0

TACKLING SMA- PART 1

Baptist Hospital, giving hope to kids with spinal muscular atrophy

Zolgensma costing Rs 16cr, Spinraza that costs Rs 78 lakh per vial, are given to kids here

RANJANI MADHAVAN @Bengaluru

ON the sets of KBC, Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) suddenly got the limelight it deserved when Amitabh Bachchan announced that he would like to donate for the Rs 16 crore one-time Zolgensma drug for a child suffering from this fatal rare disease. The drug, the most expensive in the world, and Spinraza that costs Rs 78 lakh per vial (needed for a lifetime) are administered to children with SMA, at Bangalore Baptist Hospital, which is home to India's only paediatric neuromuscular centre.

"SMA has a wide spectrum of severity. At its severest, babies are weak from birth. Even at three months, they cannot balance their neck. They have restricted hand and leg movement, cannot swallow, stand or walk, depending on the intensity of the disease," said Dr Madhuri Maganthi, Consultant (Paediatrician & Specialisation in Paediatric Genetics) and Head of the Department at Baptist. SMA is caused by the loss of nerve cells. While the company that manufactures Zolgensma offers it for free to some patients in the world on a lottery system, NGO Direct Relief sponsors Spinraza through their compassionate access programme to select patients.

Bheemakshi, a farmer from Gadag, lost her first baby to SMA. Tragically, her second baby too was diagnosed with the condition. He was well for a month, but suddenly stopped all movements and had trouble breathing. "We were referred to this hospital where he was given the Rs 16 crore drug through the lottery. He is moving now, but is still feeding through a tube. I feel braver now," she said. Her brother Rangappa said access to this drug is extremely difficult and it should be made available in India.

Parvathi Urs came to Baptist to avail Spinraza for her 15-month-old daughter. Even after getting older, her child could not run or jump, squat and get up without support, which they initially misinterpreted as a delayed milestone. "It is shocking for any parent to know their child has SMA. It was not at all easy to get access to the drug and many kids never get it. As it is a lifelong treatment, my husband has retired to take care of her," she said.

Urs' husband Arnob Saha said few doctors have expertise on this disease, but slowly, awareness is rising. In India, awareness has grown due to people like Dr Ann Agnes Mathew, a neuromuscular specialist and visiting consultant at Baptist who works pro bono here, he added.

"She brought in knowledge from the UK, developed a hospital, patient and clinical network and is an anchor for SMA in the country," Saha said. He and other patients have built a close-knit parent support group at this hospital where they share knowledge and assistance around managing SMA.

This is the first in a two-part series on spinal muscular atrophy (SMA)

TAC bats for fresh serosurvey

CHETANA BELAGERE @Bengaluru

THOUGH the number of cases is seemingly low in the state, experts from the Technical Advisory Committee have recommended a fresh serosurvey across the state immediately. A senior doctor who is part of the committee explained that they have recommended a survey as the next round will provide valuable information to prepare for any future wave, the extent of population-level protection, and effect of waning antibodies.

The experts say the central government had earlier suggested that periodic serosurveys have to be done in the state. While Andhra Pradesh managed to do five serosurveys and Kerala finished three rounds, including children, Karnataka has done only two, and needs the next one immediately. "It is important to take precautions and be prepared than be taken by surprise," the doctor explained.

Border checking to continue

The Karnataka government is likely to continue demanding RT-PCR negative report at the border for arrivals from Kerala and Maharashtra, till November 8.

It may be noted that CM Basavaraj Bommai had hinted at relaxing border checking rules after Dasara, however, TAC experts at a recent meeting recommended that checks should continue till Deepavali is over.

Meanwhile, the TAC also recommended continuation of night curfew till November 8 in districts where the weekly Test Positivity Report is more than 1 per cent.

Third wave: Testing on kids ramped up in state

CHETANA BELAGERE @Bengaluru

TESTING on children has been ramped up in Karnataka, and according to data released by the Health and Family Welfare Services, of the total tests conducted between September 21 and October 21, 20.8 per cent were done on children.

"As there is an apprehension that the possible third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic will affect children more, it was directed that 10 per cent of the total tests should be compulsorily done on children below 18 years of age. As children are not eligible for vaccination, and schools have reopened for Class 6 to 12 from August 15, testing was ramped up," said a statement by the Department of Health and Family Welfare Services.

Updating testing details in the state, the department informed that 5,00,31,061 samples were tested in the state, and over 81 per cent were done using the Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) method.

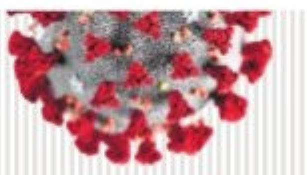
A health worker collects swab samples of a passenger at Kempegowda Bus Station in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHRIRAM BN

"The number of samples tested by government laboratories is 3,51,78,814 (contributing 70 per cent) and by private labs is 1,49,91,638 (contributing 30 per cent). Lab-wise tests include samples tested with addresses of other states too," the statement read.

The total RT-PCR test pooling capacity is 1,83,780 across the state. This includes the 99,400 and 84,380 samples per day that can be tested at government and private facilities respectively.

Government data said the state now has a total of 257 (Govt: 96, Pvt: 161) molecular testing laboratories that were made functional, including RTP-CR, CBNAAT, TrueNAT and other platforms.

"Testing is the key measure for early detection, identification of hot spots and implementing appropriate public health intervention for disease containment. The number of tests conducted is being closely monitored on a daily basis, and ASHAs carry out active case search or house-to-house visits to identify symptomatic cases with special focus in rural areas," the statement said.



K'TAKA REPORTS 5 DEATHS, 338 CASES

BENGALURU: The state on Sunday reported five deaths, a slight dip from Saturday's count of 7. With this, the total number of people succumbing to the virus since the beginning of the pandemic now stands at 38,007. Bengaluru Urban accounted for the maximum number of cases (194) and four deaths, a bulletin from the health department read. Tumakuru district reported one death. Meanwhile, the state recorded 388 fresh Covid-19 cases taking the total caseload to 29,85,986. The infections in other districts was below 50, including 37 in Tumakuru, 34 in Dakshina Kannada, 25 in Hassan, and 23 in Mysuru.

Shivamogga sees dip in malaria, dengue cases

ARPITHA | @Shivamogga

SHIVAMOGGA district has reported a significant dip in malaria, dengue and chikungunya cases in 2020 and 2021 when compared to previous years.

Sources from health department said that all these mosquito-borne viral diseases will increase in and around the monsoon season. Usually, cases may rise in areas that face continuous heavy rains as stagnant water will pave way for increase in mosquito larvae. However, the city corporation sources said that door-to-door awareness programmes about these diseases along with spraying of mosquito larvicide and frequent fogging has helped in reducing mosquito-borne viral diseases compared to previous years.

According to latest data from the District Vector Borne Disease Control Programme Office of Shivamogga, in 2020 five cases of malaria, 235 cases of dengue and 127 cases of chikungunya were reported. In 2021 (till September 30), two cases of malaria, 260 cases of dengue and 132 cases of chikungunya have been reported. In 2019, 16 cases of malaria, 696 cases of dengue and 526 cases of chikungunya were reported.

भारत सरकार · अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR
श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्लूर (जिला), आं.प्र./ SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

संक्षिप्त ई–निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

सं.शारःसीएमजी सिविलः अनुरक्षणः ई–जन निविदा / No:SHAR:CMGCIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-08/21 तिथि/ Date. 21.10.2021

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, "एसएलपी क्षेत्र में संरचनात्मक मरम्मत" (टी/सी-21-037, अनुमानित लागत ₹29.09 लाख), "शार अस्पताल में कोविड हेतु 3 कक्षों" (टी/सी-21-038, अनुमानित लागत ₹22.03 लाख), "स्प्रोब में विविध सिविल कार्य" (टी/सी-21-039, अनुमानित लागत ₹28.13लाख), "स्प्रोब में सिविल एवं जन स्वास्थ्य कार्य हेतु एएमसी" (टी/सी-21-040, अनुमानित लागत ₹60.85लाख)हेतु मद दर निविदाएं ऑनलाइन आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेज 08.11.2021 को 14:30 बजे तक डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं। विस्तृत सूचना हेतु इच्छुक निविदाकार हमारी वेबसाइट **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** देखें।

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for "**Structural repairs @ SLP area**" (T/C-21-037, Est. cost ₹29.09 Lakhs); "**3 rooms for covid at SHAR hospital**" (T/C-21-038, Est. cost ₹22.03 Lakhs); "**Misc civil works@ SPROB**" (T/C-21-039, Est. cost ₹28.13 Lakhs); "**AMC for civil & PH works @ SPROB**" (T/C-21-040, Est. cost ₹60.85 Lakhs). Tender documents can be downloaded upto 08.11.2021, 14:30 hrs. Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.

हस्ताक्षरित Sd/- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR

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AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002, (hereinafter "Act"). READ WITH RULES 8(6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower, Security providers, mortgagors as indicated in the table below, that the below described immovable property, mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised officer of IDBI Trusteeship Services Ltd ("ITSL") on 30 September 2021, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "whatever there is" basis for recovery of **Rs. 1,388,566,784/- (Rupees One Hundred Thirty Eight Crores Eighty Five Lakhs Sixty Six Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty Four only)** as on July 13, 2021 with further accrued interest, premiums, costs, expenses, fees and all other amounts accrued under, pursuant to, or otherwise in connection with the financial facility due and payable by the Borrowers, Mortgagors and Security Providers. **The reserve price has been fixed for Rs. 146 Crores and Last date for Earnest Money to be Deposited ("EMD") has been fixed for Rs. 15 Crores within 26th November 2021, 3 P.M., Date of Auction is scheduled for 29th November 2021. Date of Inspection of the Immovable property is fixed for 8 November 2021.**

Borrower, Security Providers, Mortgagors

1) Opportune Property Developers India Private Limited
At: 17, Seetharam Nagar, Velachery, Chennai - 600 042
2) Bhagyalakshmi Properties Private Limited (Security Provider)
At : #820, 80 Feet Road, 20th Main, 8th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560 095
3) Bhagyalakshmi Homes LLP (Security Provider), hereinafter referred to as "BHLLP"
At : #820, 80 Feet Road, 20th Main, 8th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560 095
4) Golden Gate Properties Limited (Security Provider)
At:#820, 80 Feet Road, 20th Main, 8th Block,Koramangala, Bengaluru-560 095
5) Golden Gate Holding Private Limited (Security Provider)
At: No 11, First Floor, KSV Nilaya, Millers Road, Vasanthanagar, Bengaluru–560 052
6) Golden Gate Projects And Ventures LLP (Security Provider)
At : #821, Kushal Arcade, 80 Feet Road, 20th Main, 8th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560 095
7) Prisha Properties India Private Limited (Security Provider)
A private limited company having its registered office at: 1st Floor, Vikas Towers Castle Street, Ashok Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 025
8) Mr. Sanjay Raj (Security Provider)
At : 3-C, 5th Floor, A-Block, Binny Crescents Apartment, 16 Benson Cross Road, Benson Town, Bengaluru – 560 046
9) Mr. Pratap Kunda (Security Provider)
At : 8/2/703/4/p, Street No. 2, Avenue 1, near Kerala Ayurvedic Lane, Road No. 12, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad – 500 034
10) Ms. Pratibha Kunda (Security Provider)
At: 8/2/703/4/p, Street No. 2, Avenue 1, near Kerala Ayurvedic Lane, Road No.12, Banjara Hills,Hyderabad-500034
11) Mr. Amarnath Devaki (Security Provider)
At : HN08-2-293/82/L/102/A II, MLA Colony, Road No 12, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad – 500 034

Description of the Immovable property/ Secured Asset

All that piece and parcel of the
PART A : SIDDANAYAKANAHALLI PROPERTY
Properties belonging to BHLLP situated at Siddanayakanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, as more specifically detailed out hereinunder:

SI.No.	Sy.No.	Extent		Conversion Orders
		Acres	Guntas	
1	45/2	2	05	ALN(D)SR.39/07-08 (Dt: 05-09-09)
2	45/3	1	02	ALN(DE.K)SR.50/11-12 (Dt: 26-09-13)
3	45/4	1	18	ALN(DE.K)SR.50/11-12 (Dt: 26-09-13)
4	45/5	2	23	ALN(D)SR. 19/03-04 (Dt: 27-12-04)
5	45/7	0	21	ALN(DE.K)CR.42/11-12 (Dt: 23-09-13)
6	46	2	10	ALN(DE.K)SR.50/11-12 (Dt: 26-09-13)
7	47	5	15	ALN(DE.K)SR.39/07-08 (Dt: 05-09-09)
8	72	0	22	ALN(D)SR.21/03-04 (Dt: 27-12-04)
9	73	1	00	ALN(D)SR.39/07-08 (Dt: 05-09-09)

PART B : RAGHUNATHPURA PROPERTY
Properties belonging to BHLLP situated at Muttur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, as more specifically detailed out hereinunder:

S. No.	Sy.No.	Extent		Conversion Orders
1.		Acres	Guntas	
2.	69/1	1	24	ALN(D)SR. 17/03-04 (Dt: 17-01-05)
3.	69/2	2	35	ALN(D)SR. 17/03-04 (Dt: 17-01-05)
4.	75	3	0	ALN(DE.K)CR.56/11-12 (Dt: 23-09-13)
5.	76	2	36	ALN(DE.K)SR.41/11-12 (Dt: 08-10-13)
6.	77	3	0	ALN(DE.K)CR.52/11-12 (Dt: 23-09-13)
7.	78	1	0	ALN(D)SR.20/03-04 (Dt: 27-12-04)

PART C : MUTTUR PROPERTY
Properties belonging to BHLLP situated at Raghunathapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapuara Taluk, as more specifically detailed out hereinunder:

SI.No.	Sy.No.	Extent		Conversion Orders
		Acres	Guntas	
1	126	6	07	ALN(D)SR.84/05-06 (Dt: 28-01-08)
2	137	2	09	ALN(D)SR.84/05-06 (Dt: 28-01-08)
3	138/1	1	28	ALN(D)SR.84/05-06 (Dt: 28-01-08)
4	138/2	2	07	ALN(D)SR.84/05-06 (Dt: 28-01-08)

The prospective bidder(s) / purchaser(s) are requested to kindly see the detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in website i.e. www.iifl.com / Auction
M/s. NexXen Solutions Private Limited would be assisting the Authorized Officer in conducting the auction through an e-bidding process. For any assistance related to inspection of the property, or for obtaining the Bid document and for any other queries, please get in touch with the Client Service Delivery (CSD) Department of **M/s. NexXen Solutions Private Limited through Mobile No. +91 93100 29933, Tel. No. +91 124 4 233 933, e-mail id: CSD@disposalhub.com and website : www. disposalhub.com.**
The Authorised Officer ITSL, Email: nikhil@idbitrustee.com
It is again reiterated that The Bid Document can be collected / obtained from the Authorized Officer of ITSL having its office at Asian Building, Gr Floor, 17 R. Kamani Marg, Ballard Estate – Mumbai 400 001 or directly from **M/s. NexXen Solutions Private Limited.**

Date: 25-OCT-2021 Place: Bengaluru — **Authorised Officer IDBI Trusteeship Services Ltd**

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The helicopter carrying Congress MLA Byrathi Suresh made an emergency landing owing to bad weather at the government high school grounds in Basavanal village of Shiggaon taluk, Haveri district, on Sunday. All the occupants of the chopper are safe

STRAWS IN THE WIND

Bommai -- a man for all seasons?

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who had to fill the shoes of his predecessor B S Yediyurappa, is on a mission to prove that he is a leader for all seasons. And communities. When Bommai donned a woollen blanket, a Kuruba tradition, to impress community voters in Sindagi, and even claimed he deserved it, he had to contend with the original Kuruba leader Siddaramaiah. The former chief minister was quick to react, "I am a Kuruba as I reared sheep. Have you ever done it?" Bommai, a Janata Parivar leader who managed to become CM within a decade of joining BJP, is eager to expand his reach and prove he is a mass leader. All this zeal in time for the 2023 elections.

Campaign show must go on

With bypolls to Sindagi and Hanagal assembly constituencies, CM Bommai's entire cabinet is in these two segments, campaigning hard in every village, roping in every organisation and cluster. Endowment Minister Shashikala Jolle, who was camping in Sindagi for the past few days, was to meet a few women's organisations and local Stree Shakti groups, but had to rush to Bengaluru for official work. That did not stop the minister, who opted for a video call to keep her date with the women, who happily waved to Jolle. In these tech-tonic times, it's possible to be in many places at the same time, and for Jolle, the show just went on...

If dreams were horses...

Ahead of the 2018 assembly polls, former DyCM and now Panchayat Raj Minister K S Eshwarappa had launched 'Sangolli Rayanna Vedike' to unite youths of SC/ST and OBCs, except for Muslims. It was an apparent attempt to carve out his own caste constituency, which could someday propel him to the CM's gaddi. Or so he dreamt. But B S Yediyurappa was quick to put a lid on it, as the BJP has its own Backward Classes Morcha. Eshwarappa had also helped religious heads of SC/ST/OBC communities to launch a forum, and on Saturday, these heads visited the minister at his residence to discuss certain issues related to their communities. Social Welfare Minister Kota Srinivas Pujary was also summoned. Like Yediyurappa, Eshwarappa is now the champion of mutts and swamis, particularly the lesser known ones. Small indicators of big dreams.

Muslims, Gangamathas will be deciding factors in Hanagal

Minority votes to go 3 ways; Ministers from different Lingayat sections campaign hard

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Bengaluru

IN a neck-and-neck fight between Bharatiya Janata Party and Congress in the October 30 bypoll to the Hanagal Assembly constituency, the division of Muslim community votes and the leaning of backward class Gangamathas would hold the key.

Of over 2 lakh electorate, Muslims have around 35,000 votes, while two candidates from the community -- Niyaz Shaik from JDS and Nazir Ahmed Savanur (independent) -- are in the fray. The votes will be split three ways, between these two candidates and Congress. "Chances of Nazir, who is a former Hanagal Town Municipality president, grabbing more votes than Niyaz cannot be ruled out," said a community leader. In fact, Congress tried, but in vain to convince Nazir to withdraw his nomination.

The backward 'Gangamatha' community, which has 25,000 votes, too will have considerable sway.

In the 2018 Assembly polls, community leader Chandrappa Jalagar contested as an independent and grabbed over 4,000 votes which reportedly helped the late CM Udasi of BJP, whose death necessitated the bypolls, to win against Congress candidate Srinivasa Mane by a small margin of 6,000 votes plus.

This time, however, Mane has managed to get Jalagar on his side.

Countering this strategy, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and his predecessor BS Yediyurappa have engaged Member of Legislative Council N Ravikumar from the community to camp at the constituency and campaign for party candidate Shivaraj Sajjanar.

"When Yediyurappa was chief minister he granted a large amount of funds to the Ambigara Chowdaiah Peetha which may help Sajjanar," said another community leader Hannappa. However, he clarified that the votes may get divided between parties.

KARNATAKA ASSEMBLY BYPOLLS DECIDE

As expected, the Lingayat community is likely to go with BJP. Medium and Large-Scale Industries Minister Murugesh Nirani has been put in charge to garner a chunk of 33,000 votes of Panchamashalis and Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister JC Madhuswamy is on the campaign trail to get 5,000 Nolamba Lingayat votes. While Sajjanar himself will woo 5,000 Ganiga Lingayats, Bommai is out to impress over 10,000 Sada Lingayats.

While 28,000 Scheduled Caste votes may get divided between candidates, a bigger portion is likely to go with BJP as Govind Karjol campaigned aggressively. Just over 8,000 Kuruba voters are expected to stand by Congress because of leader of opposition Siddaramaiah.

When BS Yediyurappa was the state's chief minister he granted a large amount of funds to the Ambigara Chowdaiah Peetha which may help BJP candidate Shivaraj Sajjanar

A Gangamatha coummunity leader

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai campaigns for party candidate Ramesh Bhusanur ahead of the October 30 bypolls in Sindagi on Sunday

Cong wins elections with money power: Bommai

MAHESH M GOUDAR @ Vijayapura

CHIEF Minister Basavaraj Bommai has hit back at Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president DK Shivakumar for accusing the BJP of distributing money to woo voters in the bypoll-bound Sindagi and Hanagal constituencies.

Campaigning for BJP Sindagi bypoll candidate Ramesh Bhusanur on Sunday, Bommai said, "It is the culture of the Congress leaders (to distribute money). We are fighting the bypolls on the basis of development and not money."

He accused the Congress of misusing power and looting the state when in power. "They are using the same money now to win the bypolls. Shivakumar has the past experience of bringing money in gunny bags to distribute it among voters. I know how he campaigned ahead of the Kundgol and Nanjangud bypolls. Congress believes that a 'night operation' (luring voters using money and liquor) can swing the elections in their favour," thundered Bommai.

"The Congress accuses us of winning elections using money and muscle power. ut when they win, it is people's power. I want to ask the Congress leaders on what basis they won the recent Maski bypoll?" he said.

Taking a dig at former CM Siddaramaiah and other Kuruba leaders of the Congress, Bommai said, "There are certain people who portray themselves as Kuruba leaders and wear a kambali (blanket). I urge such leaders to wear a blanket only if they have worked for the community's welfare. It was me who developed the birthplace of Kanakadasa in Baada village." Kanakadasa hailed from the Kuruba community.

Bommai also assured the voters of completing pending irrigation projects to irrigate 1 lakh hectares of land in Sindagi and Indi taluks. He also promised to lay the foundation stone for Korwar branch canal works soon after the completion of the October 30 bypolls.

Bommai, who campaigned in 12 villages of Sindagi segment, was accompanied by minister Govind Karjol, CC Patil and Shashikala Jolle and former Deputy chief minister Laxman Savadi.

KPCC chief DK Shivakumar addresses the media in Hanagal on Sunday

BJP manifesto meaningless, says DKS

ENS@ Hanagal

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president DK Shivakumar on Sunday called the manifesto released by the BJP for the Hanagal bypoll meaningless. Shivakumar was campaigning for Congress candidate Srinivas V Mane in Hanagal. On Saturday, BJP leaders, including Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and former CM BS Yediyurappa, had released a Hanagal-centric manifesto of the party.

"The manifesto of the BJP is meaningless. They have included silly things. The double-engine government so far failed to provide basic needs to the residents of the constituency," the Kanakapura MLA said. Slamming the BJP governments at the Centre and the State, Shivakumar said that people are struggling to lead a normal life owing to skyrocketing prices of essential commodities and the governments have failed to take steps to bring the prices under control. "People will teach a lesson to the BJP, whose ministers and CM have locked up Vidhana Soudha and are camping in Hangal and Sindagi ahead of the bypolls," he rued.

He said women's safety was a matter of concern. "Women cannot go alone to a police station in PM Narendra Modi's constituency of Varanasi. The number of molestation cases have increased in Karnataka. The BJP government and its leaders have failed to protect the women and farmers of the country," he added.

Bommai flexes muscle, adopts pro-Hindu stand

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Tumakuru

CLOSE on the heels of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's advocacy for moral policing in Mangaluru, the overwhelming response to the 'state-sponsored' Tumakuru bandh has raised suspicions that Bommai is playing the strong pro-Hindu leader, like Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath. The party high command has already declared him the face of the BJP for the 2023 assembly polls.

"The CM is committed to safeguarding the interests of the Hindu community," a remark by ruling BJP MLA G B Jyothiganesh during Friday's bandh, is an indicator to the political narrative in Karnataka. He reportedly had no choice but to support the bandh called by pro-Hindu organisations, as former minister and four-time MLA Sogadu Shivanna, an original RSS man, is a contender for the Tumakuru seat in 2023.

According to sources, if not for the support of the government, the quiet city of Tumakuru would not have 'overreacted' and ensured a bandh. There are reports that ranks of pro-Hindu groups are descending from other regions, to reportedly make inflammatory statements against another community.

TUMAKURU BANDH

"This not only incites communal clashes but leads to violence, as a section of the media has reported," said Shivaraj B Nanjappa, a lawyer who felt Bommai's advocacy for moral policing is unwarranted.

"A bandh of this scale is shocking, and cannot be held without a hidden political agenda. It is reportedly over a 'road rage' incident involving a member of the Bajrang Dal and unruly youth of another community," said Yashwanth, an interdisciplinary scholar with interest in Indian history.

This was echoed by retired English lecturer-turned-farmer Holatal Siddagangaiah. "A bandh of this magnitude over road rage is unexpected, and a town like Tumakuru is finding it difficult to digest this as no such response is seen for burning issues such as fuel prices. BJP had held such bandhs when Congress was in power," he said. Small-time trader Manjunath felt the bandh was not acceptable at a time when Covid-19 has already had an adverse impact on business, and that too called by a ruling party MLA who could have ensured legal action against the accused in the road rage incident. "What have they achieved through the bandh, over an issue between two individuals? It will paint the city in a bad light. Tumakuru has the Siddaganga mutt with a 'sharanas' tradition, contributing immensely to harmony in society," said septuagenerian sociologist K V Krishnamurthy.

Interestingly, Shivanna did not participate in the bandh, sending a message to the electorate that he wants inclusive politics, as no communal clashes were reported during his four terms as MLA.

The influence of coastal Karnataka over communal issues -- both trivial and serious -- is apparent in Tumakuru, as information spreads like a wildfire beyond geographies, garnering sympathy along the way and uniting like-minded people. Political polarisation helping the Congress cannot be ruled out either, as minorities gravitating towards the party cannot be ruled out. The JDS, runner-up in 2018 elections, has remained a mute spectator.

FOR THE LOVE OF KANNADA

Folk artistes perform at the launch of 'Mathad mathad Kannada', a State Government initiative to promote Kannada, in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

START THINKING LIKE A MAJORITY, RAHMAN KHAN ADVISES MUSLIMS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

VETERAN Congress leader and former Union Minister for Minority Affairs K Rahman Khan, who revisited the thoughts of freedom fighter Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, gave a call to the Muslim community to start thinking as the second majority community, constituting 22 crore of the country's population, which is as big as Indonesia's and bigger than Bangladesh's.

The former deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha told The New Indian Express that adopting the attitude of being a majority will help the community strengthen itself, and contribute to nation building.

"As Dr B R Ambedkar had said, the success of democracy is in the participation of all communities. Ambedkar got bargaining power for reservation for SC/STs when the separate electorate was abolished, but we lost the privilege of political reservation when the Muslim leadership opted for partition of the country, except for Maulana who opposed it throughout his life," he remarked. "Muslims should now adopt an attitude of majority and prove their competency."

On Muslims supporting the Congress, the veteran leader clarified that the community supports whichever party follows the ethos of secularism enshrined in the Constitution. "We support the Congress, not for the several welfare schemes it has brought about but for its secular and inclusive ideology," he clarified.

On implementation of the Sachar Committee report recommendations on socio-economic situation of Muslims, he said the Kundu Committee he had set up as minister for minority affairs, had revealed that only 45 per cent of the set target was reached until the time UPA-II was in power at the Centre.

JDS to help BJP in bypolls

There is no doubt that the JDS fielded Muslims in Hanagal and Sindagi for the October 30 bypolls to divide Muslim votes to help the BJP, Khan alleged. "The JDS might have its base in five districts of Old Mysuru region, but not pan Karnataka. If there were no Muslim candidates, the party would not even get 500 votes," he said.

Is fielding son not family politics, HDK asks Siddu

MYSURU : Hitting out at Siddaramaiah for calling JDS a family party, HD Kumaraswamy on Sunday asked as to why the former brought his younger son, who was a doctor, into politics and made him contest from Varuna. "Is fielding your son not family politics," he asked. On Siddaramaiah's comments on JDS fielding minority candidates in the bypolls in Hanagal and Sindagi, Kumaraswamy said Siddaramaiah should have fielded a Muslim in Chamundeshwari instead of contesting the election. He said that he and his party workers have strengthened the party from the scratch and not Siddaramaiah, who was upset with not having his photo in the publicity material. ENS

It is up to GTD to continue or sever ties with JDS, says Kumaraswamy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mysuru

WITH Chamundeshwari MLA GT Devegowda publicly disclosing his plans to quit Janata Dal Secular and join Congress, former chief minister and JDS leader HD Kumaraswamy on Sunday kept everyone guessing over his next move with regards to the senior MLA.

At an interaction, Kumaraswamy categorically said that it is left to Devegowda to take a decision on whether to continue in the JDS or not.

Devegowda, who defeated Siddaramaiah in Chamundeshwari in the 2018 Assembly polls, has earlier said that he is being sidelined in JDS.

Asked if he would talk to Devegowda to convince him to stay in JDS, Kumaraswamy said, "I am not in touch with him for the last two years. The question of talking to him comes only when he decides to stay in the party."

I am not in touch with GT Devegowda for the last two years. The question of talking to him comes only when he decides to stay in the party

HD Kumaraswamy, JDS leader and former CM

Commenting on his son Nikhil Gowda meeting Devegowda's son Harish in Mysuru recently, Kumaraswamy said, "They are good friends and I am not aware of anything else."

Kumaraswamy, a bitter critic of Opposition leader Siddaramaiah, said the latter is limited to only giving speeches. "Siddaramaiah claims to have built JDS in the past. But he must introspect who worked on the ground after the Janata Parivar split. The money I earned from film distribution was spent on building the party and for Cauvery protests. We organised people, put up banners and Siddaramaiah only gave speeches. He was limited to speeches. When he lost elections and decided to quit politics, it was my father HD Deve Gowda who convinced him to continue in electoral politics," Kumaraswamy added.

An Eventxpress Initiative

UP turning into industrialised state

Uttar Pradesh is now a state where world-leading companies are willing to invest. Changed business environment has helped the state's march towards rapid industrialisation along with creating new employment opportunities that in turn strengthen peoples' economic and living conditions.

Four and a half years ago, industrial units were concentrated only in a few western UP cities like Ghaziabad and Noida. However, the Yogi Adityanath government focused on developing a roadmap of industrialisation in all regions of the state. The industrialization roadmap for the state has identified possibilities of setting up of industries most suited to different areas. It has also entailed establishment of modern industries like the IT and electronics manufacturing, electric vehicles, infrastructure, housing, as well as defence manufacturing in the defence industrial corridor spread over six nodes including Aligarh, Agra, Jhansi, Chitrakoot, Kanpur and Lucknow. Industrial parks of various nature have also been planned in different districts and along with the newly developed expressways.

Investments on the ground

Having made necessary preparations to attract investors, the state government had in February 2018 organized a Uttar Pradesh Investors' Summit. It was a grand success as the state received investment proposals worth more than ₹ 4.68 lakh crore in different industrial sectors.

Monitoring possibilities

Along with creating the right environment and attracting investors, the state government brought in place a mechanism to monitor the process of realization of investment proposals. An MoU tracking portal was developed and nodal departments and officers were involved with the investors. This ensured speedy conversion of the proposals into reality.

Highlights

- **Within five months of the summit, a ground breaking ceremony for 81 projects involving more than Rs. 61,000 crore was organized in Lucknow. Proposals for these projects had been received in the summit.**
- **In less than one year from the first ground breaking ceremony, second ground breaking ceremony for more than 250 projects involving investments of more than Rs. 65,000 crore was held in Lucknow in July 2019.**
- **UP government's active participation in ensuring conversion of proposals into reality has resulted in almost 43% of all proposals, involving investments of Rs. 1.84 lakh crore, getting into different phases of implementation on ground. These are likely to generate 1,27,000 job opportunities.**
- **So far, 218 such projects worth Rs. 51,923 crore have reached commercial production stage. As many as 130 other projects worth Rs. 37,376 crore are in the pipeline. These units have potential of generating 2,05,000 job opportunities.**
- **The state government has also provided essential facilities and support to other 449 projects involving investments of Rs. 81.33 crore.**
- **34 projects worth Rs. 15,893 crore have started commercial operations while 23 projects worth Rs. 6,935 crore are under active implementation.**
- **The dedicated helpdesk for investors set up in April 2020 succeeded in attracting more than 96 investment intents during Covid-hit period. This included Rs. 66,000 crore investment proposals received from companies belonging to 10 overseas countries.**
- **German footwear manufacturer Von Wellx invested Rs. 300 crore in setting up its manufacturing facility in Agra while South Korean multinational Samsung Electronics invested Rs. 5,000 crore in setting up the largest display unit plant at Noida.**

Transparency and reforms help attract Investors

A transparent, time-bound, trackable and user-friendly system and creation of investment-friendly policies have helped Uttar Pradesh take a headstart in attracting investments for rapid industrialization. This is well reflected in the DPIIT's 'Ease of Doing Business' rankings for states where the state raced to the 2nd position in from 14th. Reforms undertaken in UP have made it one of the most attractive investment destinations for indigenous as well as foreign companies are flocking to acquired land for their units. Some foreign companies have shifted their base from China and many more of them are in the process.

The state government has implemented a transparent system of land allotment for industries through its industrial development authorities. UP Industrial Area Development Act, 1976 has been amended to ensure that allotment of commercial lands is done through the process of open auction, industrial lands are allotted through the single-window portal Nivesh Mitra and residential plots are given through lottery process. The process has been speeded up and the time taken in auction process has been reduced. The single-window portal Nivesh Mitra was developed to ease various processes involving various government agencies in the course of setting up an industrial unit. It now offers as many 327 time-bound services at a click.

Sector-specific policies

All this has been done in addition to introduction of sector specific investor-friendly policies to promote various industrial sectors including solar energy, IT & ITES, Dairy, Electronics, Tourism, Manufacturing, renewable energy, Agro & Food Processing etc. Sector specific Defence and Aerospace Units policy has also been introduced.

A new electronics manufacturing policy, 2020, was introduced to attract investment worth ₹40,000 crore in the next five years, while Uttar Pradesh Startup Policy, 2020 was launched to promote the culture of entrepreneurship and innovations in the state. The government is in the process of creating an ecosystem for at least 10,000 startups in the state.

Also, a new system was developed to issue licenses to new industrial units within 72 hours of applying. These new units have been freed from inspections and permission/licensing processes for a period of 1,000 days.

Industrial Parks & Cities

Establishment of various sector specific parks like MSME park, Medical Devices Park, Food Parks, and cities like Plastic City, Trans-Ganga City, Saraswati Hi-tech City etc. have also been planned to help entrepreneurs and attract investments.

Establishment of private industrial parks/estates has also been promoted. Under the policy for private industrial parks/estates, only 20 acres of land is required in Purvanchal and Bundelkhand regions while 30 acres is needed in Madhyanchal and Pashchimanchal regions of the state. All these steps have resulted in investments coming across sectors.

More recently the state government introduced Quick Investment Promotion Policy to further simplify the investment process while making it transparent and attractive.

Defence Corridor

- The government of India has given UP one of the two defence industrial corridors in the country. The Defence Industrial Corridor in UP has been spread on six nodes viz. Aligarh, Agra, Jhansi, Chitrakoot, Kanpur and Lucknow.
- The corridor is estimated to attract more than ₹ 50,000 crore investments by Indian and foreign defence manufacturers. These industrial units would also create job opportunity for more than five lakh workers.
- The corridor is proposed to be spread over 5,000 hectares of land and most of it has already been acquired at different nodes.
- DefExpo-2020 held at Lucknow facilitated a number of MoUs for investments in the sector. Even during the Covid period 24 other MoUs were executed. A large number of investors have shown interest in the project.
- The state received 13 investment proposals worth ₹ 4,500 crore at the Aero India - 2021 show in Bengaluru.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Aligarh node of the corridor last month. Total land acquired for defence industries here has been allotted to 19 companies investing ₹ 1,245 crore.
- A defence industrial unit has already come up at Jhansi node which was inaugurated earlier. Work on two more projects is likely to commence soon.

Lucknow to be home to BrahMos missiles

In the recent past, Lucknow node of the Defence Industrial Corridor has attracted major investors. At least 11 firms have shown interest in acquiring land in Lucknow to set up their units. However, the most important of them is the BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyenia. The BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile is regarded as a unique, precise and state-of-the-art cruise missile in the world.

The UP government has decided to give 200 acres of land as per the demand of the BrahMos Aerospace to set up their manufacturing facility in Lucknow. The missile maker has proposed to invest ₹ 300 crores. The UP Government has signed an agreement with the DRDO in this regard.

The next generation BrahMos missile project in Lucknow is likely to generate approximately 5,500 technical and 10,000 non-technical jobs.

Apart from this, a missile component manufacturing unit is being set up in Jhansi. The Bharat Dynamics Ltd. (BDL) has signed an MoU with the state government to set up a missile propulsion system unit in 183 hectares with an investment of ₹ 400 crore.

Kushinagar becomes 9th operational airport in Uttar Pradesh

With the inauguration of Kushinagar International airport by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 28th October, the number of fully operational airports in Uttar Pradesh has risen to nine. Apart from these, work on 11 new airports, including two international aerodromes, is progressing in the state.

Speaking at the event for the inauguration of Kushinagar International airport, the Chief Minister said it will boost tourism in the Buddhist circuit and generate employment opportunities in the state.

Making a mention of UP government's mission to improve infrastructural facilities, particularly the connectivity by roads, air and metros in cities, the Chief Minister said that air connectivity in the state is getting strengthened and it will provide an impetus to development.

The Kushinagar International Airport will link most of Buddhist destinations facilitating in particular Buddhist tourists from Sri Lanka, Thailand, Korea, Japan, Cambodia and other countries. To mark the occasion, the inaugural Sri Lankan Airlines flight landed at Kushinagar international airport on Wednesday.

- **Kushinagar Airport has been built at a cost of over Rs. 260 crore**
- **Uttar Pradesh has plans to set up 17 more airports in the state in the near future.**
- **Direct flights will be operated from Delhi airport to Kushinagar airport for four times a week from November 26.**
- **It will also be connected directly with Kolkata and Mumbai airports.**
- **Tourism volume expected to increase by 15 to 20 percent in the coming years.**
- **Kushinagar International Airport has the state's largest runway with a length of 3200 metres and width of 45 metres.**

Around 3 lakh aspirants appeared for the written examination conducted for the recruitment of 3,533 civil police constables, on Sunday. While exams were conducted in 637 centres across the state, aspirants appeared for the exams at 76 centres in Bengaluru.

Truck owners set November 5 deadline to cut diesel rates

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

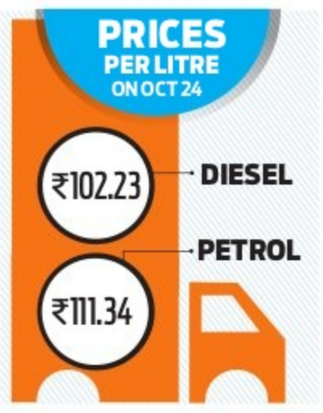
TRUCK owners have threatened to go on an indefinite strike from November 5 if Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai does not reduce state cess and sales tax on diesel by at least Rs 10, to ease soaring fuel prices.

GR Shanmugappa, president, Karnataka Federation of Lorry Owners and Agents' Association, had earlier set October 23 as the deadline for the government to ease fuel prices.

At a press conference on Sunday, he said that diesel prices have increased by more than Rs 26 per litre in the past year. "This has hit the transport industry. Several transporters have surrendered their permits and private bus operators have cut operations by almost half, since it is not economically viable to run a full fleet," he said. He also demanded extension of the permit period till January. He alleged that truck drivers face a lot of trouble while loading and unloading goods, and RTO inspectors and police trouble them, but the Bommai government has been ignoring it. "Many inter-state service drivers face harassment by officials. If we stop service, it will mean big trouble for the State to get even essential commodities, and prices will skyrocket. The State government should look into issues of overloading, and RTO personnel taking bribes and allowing overloading of vehicles," he added.

The association members warned that if the state government doesn't pay heed to their demands, they will storm Vidhana Soudha and RTOs in all districts. "We had earlier set October 23 as the deadline, but no action was taken. If they don't take this warning seriously, the consequences will be bad," Shanmugappa said.

Meanwhile, Bommai had earlier stated that fuel prices are expected to come after the bypolls.



Diesel prices have hit the transport industry. Several transporters have surrendered their permits and private bus operators have cut operations by almost half, since it is not economically viable to run a full fleet

GR Shanmugappa, president, Karnataka Federation of Lorry Owners and Agents' Association

CITY IN A DITCH

A motorist carefully negotiates through dangerous potholes which dot Lalbagh Road, in Bengaluru on Sunday. The incessant rain in recent times has worsened the situation | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

RPF rescues minor who shot video on suicide plans

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A 16-year-old boy from Bengaluru, who had made a tearful video to his family saying he had decided to commit suicide following a tiff with his father, was rescued after some smart work by the special child rescue unit of the Railway Protection Force (RPF). Using the video clip, they identified his location and stopped him from committing suicide.

The boy's uncle approached members of the unit, Nanhe Farishtey, at Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna (KSR) railway station on Friday (October 22) evening, an official release stated. "He told them that his nephew was missing from home after a quarrel and showed them the video clip. The inspector in charge, P Anusha, identified the spot in the clip as from KSR station," said a top cop.

The release said, "A message was sent immediately to other RPF cops and officers at KSR station and the video was circulated through Whatsapp groups. Nanhe Farishte divided itself into six search teams to locate the boy. The teenager was under the coach of KSR Bengaluru City-New Delhi Express. The train was on Platform One and had 7.20 pm departure time. Constable P Biswas found the teenager. He was rescued, brought to RPF office, counselled and handed over to his parents.

BODY OF MISSING MAN FOUND IN WELL

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayapura

THE body of a 32-year-old man, who had gone missing, was found by the police in a nearby well on the outskirts of Balaganur village in the district on Sunday. The victim, identified as **Ravi Nimbaragi**, was a farmer of the same village, and was in a relationship with 24-year-old Ameena Begum.

Ameena had accused her family members of murdering her boyfriend, and had filed a missing and murder complaint at Almel police station on Saturday. Earlier, the police had registered a missing complaint, but have now booked a murder case. Following a tipoff, a police team made its way to a 15-feet-deep well on a plot of agricultural land, where Ravi's body was found. The police, with the help of Fire personnel and locals, retrieved the body from the well in the wee hours of Sunday.

Speaking to *TNIE*, Deputy Superintendent of Police Sreedhar D said, "Ravi was murdered by Ameena's family members, who were against their relationship as he belonged to another community. The intention behind the murder is clear in this case. After the murder, the accused dumped the body in the well and fled. Relatives confirmed it as Ravi's body. Investigation is under way."

Ameena has filed a complaint against her kin accusing them of murder. The police have arrested her brother and another relative in connection with the case. Speaking to *TNIE*, SP HD Ananda Kumar said, "There might be a few more people involved."

EXPRESS READ

Car driver tries to mow down traffic cop

BENGALURU: A car driver, who was stopped during a drink-and-drive check on Saturday night, tried to mow down a head constable, who sustained minor injuries. The accused has been identified as Anjaneyulu (26), a resident of Nagarabavi. The injured policeman, Mubarak Ali, is attached to the Old Airport traffic police station. Police said the traffic police were conducting a drink-and-drive check on HAL Main Road when Ali stopped a car. Its driver shouted at him, even as Ali asked him to blow at the alcometer. Suddenly, the driver moved the car trying to mow down the police staff. "Ali fell and escaped with minor injuries, while the accused driver rammed a roadside wall. The police have booked him for Attempt to Murder.

Gym trainer ends life over breakup

BENGALURU: A 29-year-old gym trainer allegedly took his own life at home in RR Nagar on Saturday. The deceased has been identified as Karthik B, who was employed at a private fitness centre. He also ran a provision store. A senior police officer said that Karthik hanged himself from the ceiling in the night. His mother Jayamma noticed the body in his room on Sunday morning and alerted others in the family. Mahesh, the deceased's brother, called the police, who are yet to find any suicide note. Preliminary investigation revealed that Karthik had shared the pain over his recent breakup with some friends, and it is this issue which might have led him to this extreme step, the officer suggested. A case of unnatural death has been filed.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001.
Corporate Identity No. : U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website : www.pspcl.in
(Contact Number : 96461-17605)

Tender Enquiry No. 292/GHTP/SE/C&I/S&T/O&M/Enq-53 Dated: 22.10.2021

Superintending Engineer/O&M, Control & Instrumentation Circle, Guru Hargobind Thermal Plant, Lehra Mohabbat, Bathinda (Pb). Invites E-tender for the Work of routine loading of material from transporter's Godown/Railway Station, Running of Diesel Pump, Loading/unloading, Checking, Counting and stacking of material at O&M stores, Shifting, Restacking of left material from construction/other stores to O&M stores, preservation of material during storage, transfer of material from one Store Keeper to another Store Keeper and all other routine activities associated with handling of storage of material of 920 MW GHTP Lehra Mohabbat". For detailed NIT and tender specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 22.10.2021 at 17:00 hrs** onwards.

Note: Any corrigendum and addendum if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

482/GHTP-54/21-23-10-2021
76155/12/510/2021/9242

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Office of the Chief Electoral Officer,
Karnataka, Bengaluru- 560 001

Preparation of Electoral Rolls for Karnataka North-West Teachers and Karnataka West Teachers, Constituencies of Karnataka Legislative Council

Notice under rule 31(4) of the Registration of Electors Rules 1960

In pursuance of Rule 31 (4) of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, the Electoral Registration Officers of (1) Karnataka North-West Teachers, and (2) Karnataka West Teachers Constituencies vide their notice dated: 2nd October, 2021 called upon every person entitled to be registered in the electoral roll of the relevant constituency mentioned above, to send to, or deliver at their offices, on or before **6th November, 2021** (i.e., the last date of receipt of applications) application in Form-19 appended to the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 and reproduced in the second schedule of the said notice published in the **2nd October, 2021** edition of (1) Prajavani and (2) The Hindu (3) Vijayavani (4) Vijayakarnataka (5) Indian Express (6) Samyukta Karnataka and (7) Deccan Herald Newspapers and in the 16th October, 2021 edition of Times of India and above Newspapers.

All the above mentioned persons may submit their applications in Form-19 on or before **6th November, 2021** (i.e., the last date of receipt of applications) if not yet submitted . The said details are also available in the official website of the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka at **www.ceokarnataka.kar.nic.in.**

Bharat Bank
Bharat Co-op. Bank (Mumbai) Ltd.
Multi-State Scheduled Bank

POSSESSION NOTICE

WHEREAS

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Bharat Co-operative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd., under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated 26.07.2021 calling upon the **Principal Borrower, Mr.N Gopi, S/o. Mr.Narasimaiah, Prop. of M/s.SLN Enterprises & Joint / Co Borrower Mr.Narasimaiah, S/o. Late Hanumanarasimhaiah** to repay the amount mentioned in the Demand Notice being **Rs.22,21,501/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lac Twenty One Thousand Five Hundred and One)** outstanding as on 29.06.2021 alongwith further interest & other charges respectively within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub section (4) of section 13 of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this 21st day of October 2021.

The Borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said Property and any dealings with the said Property shall be subject to the charge of Bharat Co-Operative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd, for an amount being Rs.22,21,501/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lac Twenty One Thousand Five Hundred and One) outstanding as on 29.06.2021 alongwith further interest & other charges respectively, less amount paid thereafter if any.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8)of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing **No.205** in Sy No.90/5, situated at **Saraswathi Nagar classic county** converted for non agricultural/residential purposes vide order No.ALN(SU)SR42/2008-09, date d 06.01.2009 of District Commissioner, Bangalore, and Layout plan approved by Kanakapura Planning Authority measuring East to West :Towards North side 40 feet, towards South Side 44 ½ feet and North to South :- Towards Eastern side 48 ¼ feet, towards Western side : 67 ½ feet, owned by **Mr.Narasimaiah** and bounded on :

East by : 30 feet Layout Road,
West by : Property No.204 and 204A
North by : Property No.206
South by : Private Property

Sd/- **Dy. General Manager and Authorised Officer,**
Bharat Co-operative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd.
No. 100, Money Terrace, K.H. Road, Bangalore-560 027
Tel : K.H. Road Branch : 080-22121066, 22291942

Place : Bangalore
Date : 21.10.2021

Bharat Bank
Bharat Co-op. Bank (Mumbai) Ltd.
Multi-State Scheduled Bank

POSSESSION NOTICE

WHEREAS

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Bharat Co-operative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd., under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated 27.07.2021 calling upon the **Principal Borrower, Mr.N Anand, S/o.Mr.Narasimaiah Hanumarasiah, Prop.of M/s.Sri Vinayaka Enterprises & Joint/Co Borrower Mrs.R Geetha W/o.Mr.N Anand** to repay the amount mentioned in the Demand Notice being **(i) Rs.7,92,669/- (Rupees Seven Lac Ninty Two Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty Nine)** outstanding as on 30.06.2021 under Cash Credit LImit A/c No.003413100000239 & **(ii) Rs.10,28,596/- (Rupees Ten Lac Twenty Eight Thousand Five Hundred and Ninety Six)** outstanding as on 28.06.2021 under Term Loan A/c No.003433510065608 alongwith further interest & other charges respectively within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower& Joint/Co Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub section (4) of section 13 of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this 21st day of October 2021.

The Borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said Property and any dealings with the said Property shall be subject to the charge of Bharat Co-Operative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd, for an amount being (i) Rs.7,92,669/- (Rupees Seven Lac Ninty Two Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty Nine) outstanding as on 30.06.2021 under Cash Credit LImit A/c No.003413100000239 & (ii) Rs.10,28,596/- (Rupees Ten Lac Twenty Eight Thousand Five Hundred and Ninety Six) outstanding as on 28.06.2021 under Term Loan A/c No.003433510065608 alongwith further interest & other charges respectively, less amount paid thereafter if any.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8)of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All the piece and Parcel of the property bearing **site No.11,** Assessment No.300/11, VP Khatha No.300, (E Khatha No.150200301500620918), Layout named as **"Saraswathinagar"(Earlier named as "Old Classic Country")** site measuring East to West on (Northern side 56.04 feet & Southern side 36.10feet) and North to South (Eastern side 35.10feet and on Western side 30 feet), layout formed in Sy No.179/3, total land admeasuring 0.27 guntas converted for agricultural use to residential purpose vide conversion order bearing No.119,120,122,147,148,121,123,144 and 146/2007-2008 by Special District Commissioner, Bengaluru District and layout plan approved by the Kanakapura Planning Authority dated 05.06.2009, 25.04.2012 and 14.03.2013 and the layout formed Taralu Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, owned by **Mr.N. Anand, S/o. Mr. Narasimaiah and Mrs. R. Geetha, W/o.Mr. N. Anand** and bounded by :

East : 30 feet vide Layout Road
West : 30 feet vide Layout Road
North : Site No.9 and 10
South : Site No.12

Sd/- **Dy. General Manager and Authorised Officer,**
Bharat Co-operative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd.
No. 100, Money Terrace, K.H. Road, Bangalore-560 027
Tel : K.H. Road Branch : 080-22121066, 22291942

Place : Bangalore
Date : 21.10.2021

Bharat Bank
Bharat Co-op. Bank (Mumbai) Ltd.
Multi-State Scheduled Bank

POSSESSION NOTICE

WHEREAS

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Bharat Co-operative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd., under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated 05.08.2021 calling upon **Mr.M Manjesh** (Joint Borrower and Legal heir of Principal Borrower Late **Rajamma**) & other legal heirs of Principal Borrower late **Rajamma** namely **(i) Ms.Bhagya Krishna & (ii)Raju M** to repay the amount mentioned in the Demand Notice being **(i) Rs. 85,70,499/- (Rupees Eighty Five Lac Seventy Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety Nine)** outstanding as on 03.08.2021 under Term Loan A/c No.007633510000074 & **(ii) Rs.1,53,18,504/- (Rupees One Crore Fifty Three Lac Eighteen Thousand Five Hundred and Four)** outstanding as on 05.07.2021 under Term Loan A/c No.007633510000081 alongwith further interest & other charges respectively within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers & Legal Heirs of Principal Borrower Late Rajamma having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers & Legal heirs in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub section (4) of section 13 of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this 22nd day of October 2021.

The Borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said Property and any dealings with the said Property shall be subject to the charge of Bharat Co-Operative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd, for an amount being (i) Rs.85,70,499/- (Rupees Eighty Five Lac Seventy Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety Nine) outstanding as on 03.08.2021 under Term Loan A/c No.007633510000074 & (ii) Rs.1,53,18,504/- (Rupees One Crore Fifty Three Lac Eighteen Thousand Five Hundred and Four) outstanding as on 05.07.2021 under Term Loan A/c No.007633510000081 alongwith further interest & other charges respectively, less amount paid thereafter if any.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8)of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable property, bearing **Site No.10,** PID No.27-62-10 (Old No.10/1) measuring East to West 87'9" and North to South towards Eastern Side 30.6 feet and towards Western Side 31.3 feet totally ad measuring 2796 sq.ft, situated at **Gubbi Thotadappa Road (previously known as Tank Road), Aralapet, 1st Main Road, Cottonpet, Bengaluru-560053** along with Commercial Building constructed thereon and bounded by :

East : Neela Thopaiah's Lane (K. K. Lane)
West : Gubbi Thotadappa Road
North : Preethambari Velayudhan Shetty's Property
South : Basavaiah's Property

Sd/- **Dy. General Manager and Authorised Officer,**
Bharat Co-operative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd.
No. 100, Money Terrace, K.H. Road, Bangalore-560 027
Tel : K.H. Road Branch : 080-22121066, 22291942

Place : Bangalore
Date : 22.10.2021

Department of Industrial Training & Employment

Govt. Model Industrial Training Institute, Near Dairy Circel, Dharmaram College : PO. Bengaluru-560029, 080-26562307, kagiti_b29@yahoo.com

No: GMITI/STORE-2/CR-03/2016-2017 Date: 22.10.2021

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವಿಷಯ: ಇ–ಹರಾಜು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಶಾಖಾಹಾರಿ ಉಪಹಾರ ಗೃಹವನ್ನು ನಡೆಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ

ಈ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ನಿರುಪಯುಕ್ತ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಏಲೇ ಮಾಡಲು–ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಸ್ವಚ್ಛಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ **e-procurement portal Website: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಮುಂದುವರೆದು ಈ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶಾಖಾಹಾರಿ ಉಪಹಾರ ಗೃಹವನ್ನು ಮಾಸಿಕ ಬಾಡಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ನಡೆಸಲು ಹೋಟೆಲ್ ಮಾಲೀಕರುಗಳಿಂದ ಮೊಹರು ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.10.2021** ರಿಂದ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.11.2021** ರವರೆಗೆ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಹಾಜರಾಗಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಪ್ರಾಚಾರ್ಯರು
ಸರಕಾರಿ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ತರಬೇತಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ (ಸಂ).
ಹೊಸೂರು ರಸ್ತೆ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಬೆಂ.ಸ/ಕಿರಡಿ ಸಾಮಾ/1952/2021–22

ಕೋವಿಡ್-19 - ಗಾಳಸುದ್ದಿ ಹರಡಬೇಡಿ, ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯುತ ಪೌರರಾಗಿ, ಸೋಂಕನ್ನು ದೂರವಿಡಿ-ಸೋಂಕಿತರಾಗದಿರಲು.

ಮಾಸ್ಕ್ ಧರಿಸಿ | 6 ಅಡಿ ದೈಹಿಕ ಅಂತರ ಪಾಲಿಸಿ | ಕೈಗಳ ಸ್ವಚ ಶುಚಿತ ಕಾಪಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಿ

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, the undersigned advocate on behalf of my clients **Sri Mallanna & others** have filed the above petition for the death certificate of **Eramma @ Veeramma W/o. Late Gurusiddappa** was died **on 26-07-2008** at Maranayakanahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore urban Dist. If any parties who have objections may dispute regarding the same can appear before the Addl. Civil Judge & JMFC at Devanahalli and date of **hearing on 17/11/2021 at 11.00 A.M. in C.Misc.No. 188/2021.**

By Order of the Court, Sd/- Chief Ministerial Officer
Civil Judge & JMFC Court, Devanahalli
Sri H.B. Prakasha, Advocate

Coal India Limited
(A Maharatna Company)

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd **www.coalindia.in/** respective Subsidiary Company, CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in.** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in"**

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CHANGE OF NAME

I C P Prasanna Kumari w/o Sathyanarayana Shetty M R., R/at #707, 17th Mn, Near BDA Park, Narayana Nagar,1st Stage Doddakallasandra, Bangalore -62, have changed my name from **PRASANNA KUMARI** to **C. P. PRASANNA KUMARI** vide affidavit dated 21-10-2021 sworn before Notary Thimme Gowda KH, Bangalore.

Government of India
Ministry of Education
National Institutional Ranking Framework

nirf

INDIA RANKINGS 2022

The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was launched in 2015 to rank higher educational institutions in the country based on objective criteria to promote competitive excellence in the higher educational institutions. NIRF now invites applications for India Rankings 2022, the Seventh edition of this annual exercise.

All the institutions which have participated in the previous India Rankings exercise have been pre-registered. A mail in this regard has already been sent to the Heads of the respective institutions to confirm institution details for India Rankings 2022.

In case, your institution is not pre-registered in the above manner, and wishes to participate in India Rankings 2022, you are requested to visit our website i.e. **www.nirfindia.org** and register your institution by clicking the registration button. In case of any query, contact National Board of Accreditation at **helpdesk@nirfindia.org** or call at **011-40159583/87/89.**

The registration will open from **25th October 2021.**

Davp 21315/11/0002/2122 Member Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE

We, **(1) Ramamurthy Naidu**, S/o late Ramakrishnam Naidu, R/at. N.N. Kandirga Village, Chivada Post, Thiruttaai, Taluk, Thiruvallur District, Tamilnadhu State pin code 631201 **(2) Manjunath C.,** S/o Shamaiah, R/at. No.38, 2nd Cross, 1st Cross, Nagarbhavi, 13th Block, Bengaluru - 560 072, **(3) Selvam Kumar,** S/o late Raghunath, R/at. No.413, 7th Main, 4th Cross, Rock Layout, Bengaluru - 560 104, proposed to purchase the property morefully described in the schedule hereunder from Mr. F.D. William, S/o Fankling David, R/at No.43/2, Whitefield Main Road, Whitefield, Bengaluru. Any person/s having any manner of right, title, interest, share or claim whatsoever over the schedule property may file their objections in writing to the aforementioned address, within **SEVEN DAYS** from the date of this publication, along with documentary proof after that, we treat that, have no claims/ objections in respect of the schedule property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Land bearing Sy.No.43/2 measuring 1 acre 06 guntas and 03 guntas kharab, situated at Pattandur Agrahara Village, K.R. Pura-3 Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, vide convertion order No.ALN.SR.1099/64-65, and bounded on:

East by : Sy.No.43/5 (Private Property)
West by : Whitefield Main Road
North by : Sy.No.43/3 (Private Property)
South by : Sy.No.43/1 (private Property).

A Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation driver, Sangiliyappan (57) was arrested under the POCSO Act for allegedly sexually assaulting a 12-year-old girl in Udumalaipet. He was arrested after the minor informed her parents about the assault

Kerala writes to TN on dam water

EXPRESS NEWS @Kochi

CHIEF Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Sunday, wrote to his Tamil Nadu counterpart M K Stalin, to give immediate direction to the authorities concerned to draw maximum water from the Mullaperiyar dam to the Vaigai dam through the tunnel. He also asked Stalin to intimate Kerala at least 24 hours before the raising of the dam shutters, in order to take precautionary measures.

"At present there is a net inflow of around 2,109 cusecs accumulating in the reservoir even after the diversion from the Tamil Nadu side. With the current inflow, it is feared that the reservoir level may reach (the permissible) 142ft once the torrential rain intensifies. Hence there would arise an urgent need for the gradual release of water from Mullaperiyar dam through the tunnel to Tamil Nadu," the letter said. Last Monday, when the water level touched 133.45ft following heavy rain in the catchment area, the state chief secretary and additional chief secretary of water resource department had got in touch with their TN counterparts to ensure the safety and security of people living downstream the Mullaperiyar dam.

TRS HOPES TO EMULATE BJD, LEARN FROM DMK

The ruling TRS party celebrates its 20th anniversary on Monday

VV BALAKRISHNA @Hyderabad

THE ruling TRS, which celebrates its 20th anniversary on Monday, is looking to the future with hope and expectation. The agenda before it, as it holds its plenary, is to compete with BJD leader Naveen Patnaik, who is serving as Chief Minister of Odisha for the fifth consecutive time, and to learn from the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu on how to become organisationally strong and remain No 1 in the political arena.

The immediate goal of the pink party is to capture power in the State for the third successive time in 2023 Assembly elections and become invincible for many more years to come.

"KCR will continue as Chief Minister after 2023 Assembly elections. The TRS should compete with Naveen Patnaik who became CM for five terms," **TRS working president KT Rama Rao** said while exuding confidence that the pink party could remain a monolith that it is now, for many years to come.

KCR will continue as Chief Minister after the 2023 Assembly elections. The TRS should compete with Naveen Patnaik who became CM for five terms

TRS working president KT Rama

When the TRS was founded in 2001, it was described as a "sub-regional party". Now, after the formation of the State, the TRS government has crossed several significant milestones and became a role model to other states with regard to implementation of welfare and developmental programmes.

"N Kiran Kumar Reddy, the last Chief Minister of combined Andhra Pradesh, did not give us any magic wand. Even then commendable work has been done in the State. It is the able leadership of K Chandrasekhar Rao that helped the youngest State take rapid economic strides," Rama Rao said.

Strength and weakness

The strength of the TRS is that it has 16,395 party units, of which 12,769 are gram panchayat units, 3,618 in municipal wards and eight divisions in cantonment area. The party, which boasts of 60 lakh membership, built its own party offices in all districts, except in Hyderabad and Warangal districts. "We are providing accidental insurance coverage to our workers and are paying ₹22 crore as premium every year. We have a couple of more ideas for implementing welfare programmes for party workers. We will announce them shortly," he said.

However, the party's weakness is that it is mainly a "MLA-centric" party. The MLAs run the party in the Assembly segments. But, at some places, especially where Congress MLAs joined TRS, there were differences among leaders and their cadre. Asked about this, a party leader quipped: "There is no opposition to TRS in the State. We are competing with our own leaders in some segments."

Meanwhile, the TRS plenary is expected to adopt six resolutions, including one against the Central government for not implementing the assurances given in the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014.

FRUIT FOR THOUGHT

A red-whiskered bulbul eating a custard apple in Tirupati on Sunday | MADHAV K

CONTAMINATED WATER KILLS TWO

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Vijayapura

A PALL of gloom descended on Yeragal village in Vijayapura as two people allegedly died after drinking contaminated water on Sunday.

The victims are identified as Neelamma Benkannavar (65) and Basavaraj Malagi (21), both are residents of Yeragal village of Muddebihal taluk. Four more people have shown similar symptoms, however, all are stable and out of danger, sources said. Apart from these six people, no other people have complained about diarrhea and other illnesses.

According to Zilla Panchayat officials, "As many six people with the complaints of vomiting and diarrhea were admitted to the taluk hospital on Saturday. After the treatment, four people have been discharged. The two have succumbed due to other health complications as the sexagenarian had hypertension and the 21-year-old had various health complications."

Speaking to TNIE, ZP CEO Govinda Reddy, said that, "As per the preliminary report, the deaths have not occurred due to water contamination. The sexagenarian had been referred to the district civil hospital for higher treatment but she succumbed after suffering cardiac arrest and the 21-year-old died as family members got him discharged from the hospital against the advice of doctors."

"A special team led by taluk health officer and other officials have emptied the stored water in all the houses as a precaution. We are creating awareness about it. The staff have also collected samples of water and it will be sent to lab to ascertain the quality of water."

"We will not deny that the deaths have occurred due to water contamination. In this village, water is being supplied from old pipelines and Jal Jeevan Mission works are still undergoing here," detailed ZP CEO Reddy.

Recently, at least six people had died after drinking contaminated water in the district.

EXPRESS READ

NIA arrests ISIS operative in ISIL/ISIS/Daesh conspiracy case

BENGALURU: The National Investigation Agency has arrested an alleged ISIS operative - Mohammed Tauqir Mahmood (33) from Bengaluru in the ISIS/ISIL/DAESH conspiracy case. The NIA had registered a case under section 120B, 125 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) Section 17, 18 & 18B of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act UA(P)A against Mahmood, Zuhab Hameed alias Shakeel Manna, Irfan Nasir and Mohd Shihab for having an affiliation with the banned terrorist organisations."NIA had earlier arrested two accused Ahamed Abdul Cader and Irfan Nasir in the case. On April 1 the agency charge-sheeted them," said the agency."Further investigation has revealed that Mahmood is in association with a co-accused who raised funds, and recruited gullible Muslim youth from a Quran circle group and illegally sent them to Syria to join ISIS.

Two Indians named as world's top scientists

SHIVAMOGGA: Names of associate professor in Mathematics B J Gireesha, and associate professor in industrial chemistry B E Kumaraswamy of Kuvempu University were named in the database compiled by Stanford University, that ranks the top two per cent of scientists across the world based on their research publications. Kuvempu University credited the two scientists for bringing the university international acclaim. B J Gireesha and Dr B E Kumaraswamy are ranked at 54,804th and 1,65,713rd place respectively. Indian Institute of Science (IISC) tops the list from India with 114 scientists finding place in the list. This is followed by BHU (24), University of Hyderabad (22), and University of Delhi (18). Across the country, 2,042 names from various universities and institutes have made it to the list.

Children trek 2km, cross river streams to go to school in Vizag

G JANARDHANA RAO @ Visakhapatnam

WHEN the entire country is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav to mark its 75 years of Independence, many interior tribal hamlets in Visakhapatnam Agency remain cut off from the outside world. Children of Bandapalem hamlet in GK Veedhi mandal are forced to trek 2 km go to school at Panasapalli after crossing a stream everyday risking their lives. They have to do a balancing act on a tree trunk laid on the stream to cross it.

There is always a threat of flash floods in streams in the Agency area.

Shanta of Panasapalli has complained that there is no building for the school and it is run in a thatched house constructed by villagers themselves. "There is not even a blackboard in the classroom leave alone other basic amenities," she pointed out, underlining the need to develop road network in the

Agency to enable tribals to join the mainstream.

Village sarpanch Subhadra has admitted lack of proper building for the school and other basic amenities for tribal children. But children are keen to attend school though it lacks basic amenities. "Even if there is a little rain, a holiday is declared for the school, which is located in a thatched house. Generally, the school remains closed during the entire rainy season," said Murali, brother of sarpanch, urging the State government to focus on developing basic infrastructure in Agency areas.

Balakrishna of Panasapalli stressed the need to develop the existing road into a BT road for better connectivity with the outside world, noting this issue has been communicated to the district administration.

Bandapalem is not an isolated case in the Agency area. There are nearly 150 tribal hamlets in interior pockets, which do not have proper road connectivity. Children of the tribal hamlets have to trek from 2 to 7 km in rough terrain to reach school everyday, said Girijana Sangham general secretary Appalanarasa, explaining lack of basic infrastructure.

He said, "There are 900 hamlets which do not have proper roads and other basic amenities. Over 370 schools do not have pucca buildings. The poor infrastructure has an adverse impact on primary education in Visakhapatnam Agency. The rate of literacy is low. There is a huge gap between male and female literacy rate. The school dropout rate is also quite high."

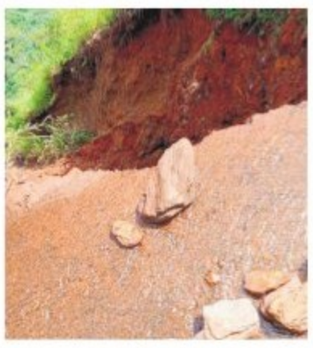
Rain in C'magaluru triggers landslides

ENS @Chikkamagaluru

HEAVY rain has been battering the hilly regions of Mullayyanagiri , Chandradrona ranges since Thursday. For the first time, landslides are reported from the roads leading to tourist destinations.

Close on the heels of the reported landslips around the Honnammanahalla falls, a major landslide has occurred at the curve of Kavikal Gandi road. Support railings along with the mortar from the end of road have been washed down the slope, thus narrowing the road path and posing danger to motorists riding on the way.

The mud slip down the slopes of coffee plantations has damaged the crop in an area of two acres. Overflowing streams in the midst of coffee estates are also damaging the crop. At various road points, check walls have crumbled down. Near the Doddi Kan estate, soil slurry had come gushing, hundreds of feet down, levelling the lake in the



A landslide near Kavikal Gandi on the way to Datta Peeta. | EXPRESS

coffee estate with mud.

Officials of the Forest, PWD, and CMC commissioner Basavaraj visited the sites of landslips and assessed the situation.

In Hiremagaluru, the house of a daily wager, Parameshaerappa collapsed. The occupants of the house, fortunately, were shifted to another site. No casualties were reported. The rain continues to lash Malnad, causing inconvenience to planters of coffee, areca, and other crops.

Actor attacks 2 women over garbage issue

ENS @Bengaluru

THE son of Kannada film producer Soundarya Jagadish and his bodyguards allegedly attacked two women, who work as domestic help at his neighbour's house, over a petty issue at Mahalakshmi Layout in Bengaluru on Saturday.

The police have registered a case of outraging the modesty of the two workers and trespass against actor Snehith Jagadish (19) and seven others.

The complaint by one of the workers Anuradha (43) also mentions Rekha Jagadish, Bhuvana, Latha, Nikil, Kumar, Ashok and Rakshith.

Around 6 pm, the two workers, who work for Manjula Purushotham, were sweeping and asked the bodyguards to move.

They instead started hitting her, and Snehith pulled their clothes, stated the complaint.

'No military alliance will fix all issues'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

EARLIER, speaking on "Geopolitical lessons and impact of 1971 War," former National Security Advisor (NSA) and former Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon said China is only an economic power and the US is the only country that can project military power anywhere it wants around the globe. "China is still a regional military power and that, too, in a crowded region with India, Japan, Russia and Korea. China wants to be number one and the US wants to prevent its rise," he said.

As China turns more hostile, India's relationship with US has grown, signing several defence agreements, besides informally working with a whole coalition of countries on China's periphery, Japan, Vietnam, Indonesia, Singapore, Australia and others. "What I see is a natural balancing to a state of disorder in a world that is in disarray. There is no order. We saw the response to Covid.

What does G20, UN, WHO or anybody do? Each one takes care of itself," he said, emphasising the need for India to be militarily self-reliant and strong. India is a member of the Quad along with US, Australia and Japan.

Bengaluru startup among the winners of IAF drone contest

ENS @Bengaluru

BENGALURU-based start-up Newspace Research, and Technologies Private Limited was among the three firms that won the "Mehar Baba Swarm Drone Competition" conducted by the Indian Air Force (IAF).

IAF Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari on Sunday, presented awards to Newspace Research and Technologies Private Limited (Best Swarm Architecture), Team Delhi Technological University-Flair Unmanned Systems Private Limited (Best Communication Architecture) and Dhaksha Unmanned Systems Private Limited from Anna University, Chennai (Best Drone Architecture), at IAF station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru.

A total of 154 teams had registered for the competition conducted in line with the central government's "Atma Nirbhar Bharat" initiative. The competition was named after Late Air Commodore Mehar Singh, a legendary pilot who was the first to land in Srinagar with his Dakota aircraft in 1948 with Indian troops. The IAF provided mentoring, compensated the design and development cost of the prototypes.

Demonstration

Wing Commander KR Srikant of the Team Dhaksha said, "The drones are capable of identifying targets and striking them. The payload carrying capacity will depend on the mission requirements. The drones have been tested up to 100 km, and have the endurance to fly for over three-and-half hours."

Senior BJP leader claims Mishra negotiated between Mamita and Gobinda

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhubaneswar

IN a twist to the Mamita Meher murder case, senior BJP leader Bijoy Mohapatra on Sunday claimed that Minister of State for Home Dibya Shankar Mishra tried to iron out differences between the lady teacher and her employer Gobinda Sahu at Raipur.

Joining the battle for justice to Mamita, the lady teacher allegedly murdered by Gobinda, Mohapatra told mediapersons that the Minister brought the two to a negotiating table at his residence at Raipur, capital of Chhattisgarh, to resolve some contentious issues prior to her killing. "The Minister made an attempt at his Raipur residence to reach a compromise between the two. This has been informed by the police to the appropriate authority of the State government. The matter lingered on for nearly two months. Then she was murdered," as per Mohapatra.

He further claimed that the police have submitted a report to the "third floor", the Chief Minister's office, after examining some call records but did not elaborate whose calls were verified. He demanded that the call details of the Minister be examined to ascertain his role in the entire set of events leading to the murder of the lady teacher. "The case will become crystal clear if call records of Mamita, Gobinda and the Minister are verified," he added.

The former minister said not only Mishra but several other influential people frequently visited the educational institutions run by Gobinda.

"Some non-Odia officers are also involved in the case as they have suppressed the reports submitted by the police," Mohapatra said. Mishra or the State government is yet to respond to the serious allegations of the senior BJP leader. Meanwhile, as the BJP Mahila Morcha continued its protest by attempting to barge into the residence of Minister of State for Home Dibya Shankar Mishra here on Sunday demanding his resignation, the party's MP from Bargarh Suresh Pujari posed some questions to the State government on the manner in which the investigation is being conducted into the murder case.

In a series of tweets, the parliamentarian said investigation of a crime is conducted basing on a theory, every theory is dissected to identify the motive of the crime and every motive is further dissected to zero in on the intention of the crime. In this context, Pujari dared the State government to tell the people about the influential persons behind the case.

State BJP president Samir Mohanty asked Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to clarify to the people whether the investigation of the case will be handed over to CBI or any action taken against Mishra. The BJP is to continue its agitation for now.

EDITORIAL

When we feed and support our own happiness, we are nourishing our ability to love. That's why to love means to learn the art of nourishing our happiness

Thich Nhat Hanh

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

NOT THE TIME TO BE CASUAL ABOUT SECOND COVID SHOT

Amid the general euphoria over crossing the 1 billion landmark of total vaccinations, reports of detection of presumably the most contagious strain of the coronavirus, Delta Plus, have started emerging in parts of the country. If Delta created havoc during the second wave, with the mutation first being detected in Maharashtra and Punjab, cases of AY.4.2, called Delta Plus, have been found during genomic sequencing in India of late. The UK has over 15,000 cases of AY.4.2 since it was first detected in July last, which works out to 6% of all Covid cases there, prompting health authorities to categorise it as a variant under investigation. Its steady growth has been reported in Israel and Russia as well. Add to that a few cases in the US and Denmark, and there is global concern over how to manage it. In India, its percentage is less than 0.1 at present, so there are no immediate problems. But with international travel opening up, chances of the variant flying in multiply. Hence, arrival gatekeeping has to be done rigorously.

Parallelly, AY.4, another sub-lineage of Delta, has already been detected in genomic samples from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. So there is no room for complacency. It's in this context that reports of people skipping or delaying their second shot of the vaccine is worrying. They ought to understand that despite being fully vaccinated, Israel is witnessing breakthrough infections, forcing it to go for booster shots. Russia has announced a week-long lockdown as cases continue to go north, partially because of extremely high vaccine hesitancy.

One of the takeaways of the otherwise disastrous second wave was the ramping up of the healthcare infrastructure. While the administration surely deserves credit for combating the scourge with its humongous vaccine rollout, the civil society and judiciary did their part in prodding the government to do the right thing. From forcing it to amend its vaccine purchase policy and streamlining supply of scarce oxygen to offering relief to the next of kin of Covid victims, they kept the government on its toes and strengthened democracy. Their participatory role cannot be lost sight of.

ADDRESSING THE FRENZY AROUND IPOs

The multiple-times oversubscription of share sale offers of companies looking to list on the exchanges for the first time boggles the mind and defies logic. Almost every initial public offer (IPO), which is how the first share sale offers are called, is generating some kind of frenzy as if they are a sure-shot way of hitting the treasure trove. Sample this: Zomato's IPO got subscribed 38 times, Paras Defense 304 times, Tatva Chintan Pharma 180 times, Rolex Ring 180 times and so on. While some of the frenzy is partly because of the bull run that the equity markets have seen over the past 18-20 months, it is also because of the inherent ways in which the IPO allocation and funding process work.

The regulators seem to be worried about the 'unhealthy' practice of creating hysteria around an IPO, and that is why they are trying to make some systemic changes to check the practice. The RBI's recent diktat on putting a cap of ₹1 crore on NBFCs funding IPO purchase per investor seems to be one of such moves. While banks already have a cap of ₹10 lakh, NBFCs did not have any. As is the practice, high net worth individuals (HNIs) can apply for IPOs by paying just 1% of the application amount and the rest by taking a loan from NBFCs. So, if an HNI wants to apply for ₹100 crore worth of IPO, all she needs to do is pay ₹1 crore from her pocket and the rest ₹99 crore can be financed by NBFCs. This leads to oversubscription of shares allotted for the HNI category. This sends out a message to retail investors that the IPO is very lucrative and then they also go on an overdrive to own the shares.

The capital market regulator also has a few tricks up its sleeves to mellow down the hysteria around IPOs. It has recently proposed discontinuation of the proportionate allotment for the HNI category and introduction of draw of lots allotment as is currently applicable for retail investors. The new RBI regulation and the proposed rule by the Sebi might help neutralise the IPO market, which seems to be on steroids.

The Lakhimpur Kheri incident shows not only scant regard for rule of law but also arrogance of the perpetrators. What is even more disturbing is the silence of the powerful

IN THIS 'MOTHER OF DEMOCRACY', LIVES DON'T MATTER

AMIT BANDRE

KAPIL SIBAL

Senior lawyer, Congress leader and member of Rajya Sabha

The prime minister, in his address to the United Nations General Assembly, referred to our country as the 'mother of democracy'. These words ring hollow given the scale of violence fuelled by heart-rending incidents of intolerance that our political system breeds and the rampant lust for power. The genesis is the unfurling of divisive political agendas. They in turn feed into the psyche of dominant cultural mindsets that demand obedience. Any attempt to resist is met with brutal responses.

We live in a state where those who rule are bereft of empathy, act with impunity and ensure that the system manipulates the desired outcomes. Leaders who owe allegiance to the Constitution along with 'Andh Bhakts' who are the votaries of this establishment are at the forefront of this brutality that evokes both fear and disgust. It is difficult to imagine the 'mother of democracy' witnessing the mowing down of our farmers by a cavalcade associated with the Union minister of state for home affairs. The Lakhimpur Kheri incident shows not only scant regard for rule of law but also arrogance of the perpetrators. What is even more disturbing is the silence of the powerful.

When Hindu temples and Durga Puja pandals were attacked in Bangladesh, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina did not hesitate to condemn the violence and said "the perpetrators of this heinous act will be hunted down". Yet, not a word from the prime minister and the Union home minister on the inhuman act in Lakhimpur Kheri. Instead, the investigating agencies, despite an FIR, chose not to act until the Supreme Court took suo-motu cognisance and asked the state government, "Will an accused in every part of the country be treated in the same way like the present case?" This, at last, nudged the police to act and arrest the son of the Union minister of state for home, who incidentally, a few days before this incident, when shown black flags by protesting farmers, openly threatened them by stating: "*Sudhar jaao, nahin toh sudhaar denge. Doh minute lagenge kewal*" (Mend your ways, or else, we will mend you. It will only take minutes).

This is not a solitary incident. On 15 October 2021, a speeding car ploughed through a procession on its way to immerse the Durga idol in Jashpur, Chhattisgarh. One man was killed and 17 others critically injured. On the same day, a 35-year-old man, Lakhbir Singh, with no criminal history was brutally murdered, his hands chopped off and his body found hanging from a police barricade at the farmers' protest site at the Singhu border. In the recent past in Unnao (2018) and in Balia (2021), we saw how the police sought to protect the powerful by launching cases against the rape victims rather than the accused, one being an MP and another an MLA. The hurried cremation of the rape victim's body by the police in the Hathras gang-rape and murder case (2020) is a commentary on the complicity of agencies in destroying evidence to help the accused. Ranjit Bahadur Srivastava, a BJP leader from Barabanki in Uttar Pradesh, called the Hathras victim *awaara* (wayward) and said, "I can say with guarantee these boys are innocent." Kathua (2018), a gruesome tale of rape and murder of a young girl, provided yet another example of the BJP seeking to defend the accused with the formation of the Hindu Ekata Manch and two ministers of the party in the state government publicly proclaimed their innocence.

> We live in a state where those who rule are bereft of empathy, act with impunity and ensure that the system manipulates the desired outcomes

When a minister in the course of a rally can exhort the crowd by saying " *...goli maro...*" (shoot to kill), urging the crowd to avenge and thereby widen the communal divide, it may serve partisan political outcomes but tear asunder the foundation of our Republic.

The Muzaffarnagar riots (2013) resulted in 60 deaths and displacement of 40,000 people. The SIT could not file a chargesheet in 20 cases for lack of sanction for prosecution and the UP government further decided to withdraw 77 cases relating to the riots. Prominent BJP leaders were given clean chits even without trial despite video footage of them inciting the crowd with communal speeches just before the riots. In the Delhi riots (February 2020), the allegedly biased investigation agency seeks to protect the accused while prosecuting protesting students.

I wish to remind the prime minister of his promise in 2014 when he stated: "No accused (with criminal charges) will dare to fight polls. Who says that this cleansing cannot happen? I have come to cleanse politics." He went on to say, "We have to do away with criminalisation of politics, and delivering more lectures won't help." In yet another speech, he said, "Parliament *se apraadhi saaf karne padenge... main aaya to inhe nahi chhodunga... chaahe BJP ya NDA ke kyun na hon*" (We need to rid Parliament of criminals... I won't let them off the hook if I'm elected to power... even if a member is from the BJP or the NDA). Contrary to this, a study by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) in April 2018 revealed that of the 33% of MPs/MLAs with declared criminal cases related to crime against women, the BJP had the highest number of such lawmakers.

Like many of his other promises, the prime minister has failed to rise to the occasion in publicly castigating those directly and indirectly involved in propagating the cult of violence. In this 'mother of democracy' lives don't matter!

(Tweets @KapilSibal)

EMERGENCE OF MERCENARY POLITICS IN MANIPUR

PRADIP PHANJOUBAM

Editor, Imphal Review of Arts and Politics

Elections to the Manipur Legislative Assembly are barely five months away. Although the dates still have not been announced, it cannot be later than March 15, the day the current Assembly came alive in 2017. The election mood in the state is understandably building up. News of election-related skirmishes are already becoming routine, with opposing groups of supporters of prospective candidates targeting each other, often violently. If it is not this, then the news is about prominent politicians shifting party loyalties in obvious calculations of their personal electoral prospects. The pattern has also been for certain local leaders to project themselves as 'intending candidates' of a political party and campaign, even though no party has as yet named their candidates. Such is the enthusiasm and the likely intensity with which the coming elections would be fought.

There is another interesting development amidst all this, which can be read, among others, as a consequence of an unhealthy incentive introduced during the high-drama government formation contest immediately after the last elections in 2017. In that case, the Congress had emerged as the single largest party with 28 seats in the 60-member House, followed by the BJP with 21. The then Governor, Najma Heptulla, for reasons that are anybody's guess, decided to ignore the single largest party and gave the first opportunity to form the government to the BJP. The party ultimately did manage to stitch together a multi-party coalition, which included a Congress MLA who switched loyalty on day one but was never treated as a defector until the Supreme Court intervened three years later to ban him from entering the Assembly complex.

Even if it were to be agreed that in politics, fair can be foul and foul fair, what naturally followed thereafter has caused an important shift in the goalpost of Manipur's political game, one that is currently playing out ahead of the forthcoming 2022 election. Many bright new entrants into the political arena who are strongly tipped to win are actually opting for parties that are predicted to emerge as kingmakers rather than the frontrunners, the ruling BJP and the main opposition Congress. Their obvious calculation is, should they win as part of the team of either of these two parties, even if it ultimately emerges with the number to form the new government, it is unlikely they would get a ministerial berth as these parties are already crowded with their own veterans. Hence, they have decided that their best prospects for bagging ministerial positions would be as political mercenaries aligned with the smaller parties. Their bet is that a hung verdict is the most likely outcome, hence they would be in a position to join whichever party emerges as the single largest, seeking allies to form the next government. Of course, they will extract their pounds of flesh.

This pound of flesh was grotesquely substantial during the formation of the last government. The BJP, with only 21 seats of its own, had to enlist the support of at least 10 more MLAs to cross the majority mark. The Congress, by contrast, would have needed just three more but the Governor had other plans. The BJP ultimately won over the National People's Party with four seats and all of them were given ministerial berths, including that of deputy chief minister; the Naga People's Front had four and got two ministerial berths; the Lok Janshakti Party had one but still got a ministerial berth; then there was the controversial Congress turncoat who too was made a minister till the SC axe fell on him. Manipur's Cabinet size ceiling specified by the 10th Schedule being 12 including the chief minister, the ruling BJP was left with only four berths, including the chief minister. Fortunately for the saffron party, most of its MLAs then were first-timers and therefore not too ambitious. In the four and half years that have gone by, things have changed and many of the party's own MLAs who were left-empty handed may not find it easy to retain their seats. Some may not even get the party ticket.

> After the government-formation drama of 2017, many new entrants who are tipped to win have decided that their best prospects for bagging ministerial positions would be as mercenaries aligned with smaller parties as the BJP and Congress are crowded with veterans

There is another curiously self-nourishing fallout from the emergence of such mercenary politics. The very fact of many promising new entrants, as well as some veterans, opting out of the two main parties is strengthening the possibility of a hung Assembly, despite the claims by both the BJP and the Congress that they would manage a clear majority on their own. Since seats are now most likely going to be shared between multiple parties, the prospect of a single party majority has diminished considerably. Predictions are, the splintering of the electorate will get even more acute once the parties in the fray announce their candidates. At the moment, each of the frontrunner parties, in particular the ruling BJP, have several aspirants vying for tickets for each of the 60 constituencies. Those who ultimately lose out in this race may opt for other smaller parties.

While there can never be a foolproof election result prediction and one or the other parties can actually win a majority of seats, the popular anticipation is that the seeds for a splintered verdict sown at the end of the last election by the then Governor has left a demon that may not be easy for Manipur to exorcise anytime soon. The state may have to prepare to live with a new brand of politics of mercenary coalition and normalised political disloyalty—at least till another tectonic shift in attitude comes about.

(phanjoubam@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

On CPM-Cong alliance

It is unfortunate that the CPM could not formulate a unanimous opinion on having an alliance with the Congress ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls due to stiff opposition from its Kerala unit (Oct 24). Though the Congress-led UDF in Kerala suffered humiliating defeats in the recent local body and Assembly polls, the CPM should remember that it was the UDF that emerged victorious in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. All these facts coupled with the popularity of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in Kerala and elsewhere in the South should be considered by the CPM before a final decision is taken on an alliance.

N A Joseph, Ettumanoor

Eye-opener for teachers

The article *Parenting crisis in Aryan (Khan) civilisation* (Oct 24) puts the issue in proper perspective. One earnestly hopes that this column will be an eye-opener to all parents and teachers of our country.

P G Moorthy, Thiruvananthapuram

Barking up the wrong tree

This is with reference to *Many faces of national interest* (Oct 24). As the author has rightly said, there are bad apples among industrialists as there are among politicians but targeting institutions that enjoy stellar reputations like the Tatas and Infosys is clearly a case of barking up the wrong tree. Cabinet minister Piyush Goyal dubbing the Tatas as anti-national and the *Panchajanya* diatribe against IT behemoth Infosys are instances where more caution should have been exercised before venting bile on entities that hardly deserve it.

C V Aravind, Bengaluru

Suspension not enough

This is with reference to *Drunk cop suspended after clip of road drama goes viral* (Oct 24). Here's a classic example of the fence itself eating the grass. Mere suspension won't do. If past experience is anything to go by, such errant cops are transferred to other areas once the dust settles down. There, too, they indulge in the same behaviour. They should be shown the door ruthlessly so that it serves as a warning to potential troublemakers.

P G Menon, Chennai

Always a part of India

This is with reference to *Kashmir: A Forgotten History – V* (Oct 22). That Kashmir was historically an inextricable part of India has been brought out emphatically by the author with the help of multiple references from various fields of study in her series of articles on Kashmir. Adi Shankaracharya had, as early as the eighth century, composed the inspiring hymn *Ananda Lahari* in Sanskrit wherein he referred to the saffron tilak on the forehead (*Lalata*) of the Goddess as *Lalatey Kashmeeram.*

N Rama Rao, Chennai

EWS & OBC income limits

This is with reference to *Could stay Centre's decision to fix income limit in EWS quota: SC* (Oct 22). At the time of introduction of the EWS quota, a family with income of less than ₹8 lakh per annum was considered poor. Also, at that time, if any OBC family exceeded that same limit, it was considered part of the creamy layer. Now, the government is thinking of increasing the OBC creamy layer limit to ₹12 lakh per annum. If it does so, the EWS limit should go up too.

M Parthasarathy, Hyderabad

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Sanjay Raut @rautsanjay61

Witness in Aryan's case made to sign on blank paper by NCB is shocking. CM Thackaray claims that these cases were made to defame Maharashtra.

Omar Abdullah @OmarAbdullah

Regarding the Srinagar-Sharjah flight, has Pakistan had a change of heart and allowed flights originating from Srinagar to use its airspace?

Alka Lamba @LambaAlka

If poor families are not able to fill fuel, then don't buy two or four-wheelers, if already have, then take a lesson from the govt and sell it immediately.

India's vax drive shows our capability: PM

Invokes Vallabhbhai Patel to drive home the message of unity for collectively scaling new heights as a country

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

HAILING health workers for achieving the 100 crore vaccination milestone, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday said the success of India's Covid vaccination drive shows its capability and that the country is moving ahead with renewed energy.

In his '*Mann Ki Baat*' radio programme, the PM said drones are also playing their role in the Covid vaccine campaign highlighting how vaccines were delivered using a drone to an island in Manipur while Telangana has also done trials for vaccine delivery by drone.

"After crossing the 100 crore vaccine doses, the country is surging ahead with a new zeal; renewed energy. The success of our vaccine programme displays the capability of India. It manifests the might of our collective endeavour. Friends, the figure of 100 crore vaccine doses might surely be enormous, but there are lakhs of tiny inspirational and pride-evoking experiences, numerous examples that are associated with it," he said.

India crossed the 100 crore cumulative vaccine mark on October 21.

The PM called for maintaining unity among the people as he hailed Sardar Patel, whose birth anniversary is observed on October 31 as National Unity Day. "Next Sunday on October 31 is the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel. Sardar Patel used to say 'We can inculcate patriotic feeling only if we stay united'. With unity, we can take the country to new heights. If we are not united, then we will only be troubled..."

Talking about the new drone policy, the PM said many companies are also setting up manufacturing units. "The Army, Navy and Air Force have also placed orders worth more than ₹500 crore with the Indian drone companies. And this is just the beginning. We must not stop here. We have to become a leading country in drone technology. For this, the Government is taking all possible steps. I will also urge the youth of the country to certainly think about taking advantage of the opportunities created after the Drone Policy and come forward," he added.

A head of the festive season, the PM also urged countrymen to buy products from local manufacturers who struggled during the nationwide lockdown imposed due to the Covid pandemic.

The Army, Navy and Air Force have also placed orders worth more than ₹500 crore with the Indian drone companies. And this is just the beginning. We must not stop here —Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

The right to find the 15th Dalai Lama is with the Tibetans, says Rinpoche

'CHINA CAN'T DECIDE DALAI LAMA'S REBIRTH'

MAYANK SINGH @Tawang, Arunachal

THE head lama of Tawang Monastery has debunked the Communist China's endeavour to select the successor of the 14th Dalai Lama.

Gyangbung Rinpoche, the Abbot (Head Lama) of the monastery, claims that China has no right to meddle with the process of the reincarnation of Dalai Lama as the country is atheistic.

During his interaction with a select group of journalists visiting Tawang Monastery, Rinpoche said: "China is searching for the successor of XIV Dalai Lama for which only the Dalai Lama has the right. China wants to destroy our religion. In this regard, we want India's support," Rinpoche said.

Tawang Monastery is the second most important monastery for the Tibetans, after the Potala Palace in Lhasa, Tibet. The sixth Dalai Lama was born in Tawang. China has been claiming that Tawang is a part of Tibet. The Tawang monastery was founded by Merak Lama in 1680-1681.

Rinpoche said: "The right to find the 15th Dalai Lama is with the Dalai Lama, Tibetan and Himalayan people." The first Dalai Lama, who is considered as the living reincarnate of Buddha was born in 1391.

He added: "China always tries to control the world, which is totally impossible in the 21st century. It wants to become the superpower in the world. To gain control in Asia, China sees India as a challenge. Hence, it wants to overpower India. This is the reason why it is creating unnecessary disputes in India's Arunachal Pradesh, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh."

India's land borders (LAC) with China are essentially those between India and Tibet. Besides a common border, parts of India share cultural links with Tibet. Until the escape of the Dalai Lama in 1959, there had been extensive trade and people-to-people contact with Tibet.

Belligerent Beijing

China insists that the selection of the next Dalai Lama has to be decided within its territory. The Dalai Lama or his representatives and Chinese officials have not met for formal talks since 2010

Home after 3 yrs, Lalu fires salvo at Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

RASHTRIYA Janata Dal (RJD) president Lalu Prasad Yadav on Sunday questioned Congress' usefulness as an ally.

As expected, the former Bihar chief minister drew flak for his comment on Congress leader Bhakta Charan Das.

He wondered if his party should have left an assembly by-poll seat in the state for the national party so that it could lose even its deposit.

"*Kya hota hai Congress ka gathbandhan?* (What is this thing about an alliance with the Congress?)," he shot back when asked about a virtual breakup of their alliance in the by-polls to two assembly constituencies over the RJD's refusal to concede a seat to the national party.

"Should we have given one seat (to Congress) for it to lose? So that it could lose even its deposit?" he said disdainfully.

RJD chief Lalu Prasad is welcomed by supporters at Patna airport on Sunday | PTI

The Congress' poor show in the assembly polls compared to a much better strike rate of the RJD has prompted a section of the leaders of the Bihar party to question the national party's role in the alliance.

Lalu also mocked Congress leader Bhakta Charan Das, the party's in-charge for Bihar who had been targeting the RJD.

Das had recently said the Congress was no longer part of the RJD-led alliance in the state and even alleged that the RJD had an understanding with the BJP behind the scene.

"Does he (Das) know anything?" Lalu asked.

Lalu's comments on Das drew strong condemnation from a close aide of Nitish who called the RJD supremo "anti-Dalit." Ashok Choudhary, a powerful member of the Nitish Kumar-led NDA Cabinet, deplored the RJD leader's use of a Bihari slang to berate Das, a Dalit, while replying to questions from journalists in the national capital.

Choudhary said: "The RJD has always been anti-Dalit. This has been reflected in the type of language Lalu has used against Bhakt Charan Das. Recently, Tejashwi Yadav skipped a function which was addressed by no less a person than President Ram Nath Kovind. That, too, was indicative of the party's disregard for Dalit."

With agency inputs

FUEL PRICE

'Tax dacoity' at peak under Modi: Gandhis

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

CONGRESS leaders Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi continued their attack on the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with the high price of fuel giving them an issue to target the dispensation.

Priyanka accused the Modi government of setting records in 'perpetuating troubles' to the public. "Modi Ji's government has made big records when it comes to giving trouble to the public. Highest unemployment has happened in the Modi government. Government properties are being sold at a record rate. Petrol rates increased the maximum in a year under the Modi government," she tweeted tagging a news report of how the prices of petrol and diesel have skyrocketed in the recent times.

On Saturday at the launch of Pratigya Yatra, Priyanka had made several including free e-scooty and mobile phones for school girls, farm loan waiver, financial relief of ₹25,000 each to poor families and relief on electricity bills. She had also assured to generate 20 lakh government employments in Uttar Pradesh if the Congress was voted to power.

Like his sister, Rahul raked up what he described as 'tax dacoity' on fuel prices. "Tax dacoity on the petrol prices is increasing. If there is an election, there should be some restrictions," he tweeted, taunting the Modi government.

Party insiders said the Congress leaders, including Priyanka and Rahul, would be intensifying their attacks on the Modi government through various platforms including social media after an aggressive poll campaign strategy was taken for the polls in Uttar Pradesh.

Sidhu bats for 'real issues', Tewari fumes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chandigarh/New Delhi

AMID the war of words between Congress leaders and Amarinder Singh over his friendship with a Pakistan-based journalist, Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu asserted that Punjab must come back to its real issues which concern people.

Earlier, Congress MP Manish Tewari said chaos and anarchy was playing out in the state unit and that the people are disgusted by the daily soap opera.

In a series of tweet, Sidhu said he would stick to the real issues and not let them take a backseat. "The choice is clear between irreparable damage and the last chance for damage control. Who will bring back state's resources to the state's coffers, instead of them going to private pockets ??"

Hitting out at former state incharge Harish Rawat, Tewari, who is a member of G23 leaders, said: "I have never seen such chaos and anarchy as what is playing out in Punjab Congress. Repeated open defiance of AICC by a PCC President, colleagues squabbling publicly with each other like children. Guttural language against each other that even fish wives would not use."

For the past five months, he said, it was Punjab Congress versus Congress. "Do we think that people of Punjab are not disgusted by this daily soap opera? Irony is that those who complained loudest of transgressions and aberrations were unfortunately and continue to be worst offenders themselves."

Slamming the Kharge panel, Tewari asked, "History would record that the appointment of the Committee that ostensibly heard perceived and real grievances was a serious error of judgement. Where is progress on issues that agitated these MLAs?"

Caste equation plays out ahead of revamp in Congress' Gujarat unit

RICHA SHARMA @New Delhi

AHEAD of key appointments, including that of state president, in the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC), the party high command is weighing caste equations to ensure representation of influential communities in the state with an eye on the next year's assembly election.

The party is expected to announce names of new state president, leader of opposition and other committees by this week. Sources said that the caste factor is expected to play a key role in appointments to the vacant and new posts.

"The party is expected to pick an OBC-Tribal-Patidar combination for party chief, leader of opposition and head of the campaign committee. This combination gives representation to communities in the majority of seats," said a senior Gujarat leader.

In the 182-seat Assembly, there are 80 seats with OBC dominance, 27 reserved for tribals and Patidars with 12 per cent population having dominance on around 60 seats. The OBC population has influential Thakors in north and Kolis in central Gujarat.

Sources further said that the party has already picked Hardik Patel as working president and now focus would be to appoint leaders from OBC and tribal communities. "In 2018, the party brought an OBC (Amit Chavda) as GPCC chief and Patidar leader Paresh Dhanani as LoP. This time also the caste combination has to be kept in mind to give a tough fight," said another leader.

In 2017, the party contested elections under OBC leader Bharatsinh Solanki while tribal leader Mohan Rathva was LoP.

Names of Patel, former state chiefs Solanki and Arjun Modhwadia and Rajya Sabha MP **Shaktisinh Gohil** are doing rounds for the top post in the state. "The party is likely to give reins of the Gujarat unit to a senior and experienced leader so that everyone is united while young leaders like Patel and Mevani are expected to lead the election campaign," said sources.

States nudged to start fast track courts early

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

THE Centre has written to ten states for swift operationalisation of fast track courts earmarked to them for dedicated hearing of sexual offence cases, according to sources in the government.

It decided to set up 1,023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including 389 to deal exclusively with cases related to violation of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, in 31 states and union territories after the passage of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act in 2018,

West Bengal (which was to get 123 such courts), Andaman and Nicobar (which was to get 1 FTSC) and Arunachal Pradesh (which was earmarked 3FTSCs), are running behind schedule, sources said.

Consent of the state is a must as FTSCs are part of a centrally sponsored scheme where both the Centre and the state contribute with funds for the special courts.

However, officials pointed out that 17 states, including UP, Delhi, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu, have operationalised all the FTSCs that were reserved for them. It was estimated that each FTSC was conceived to try between 65 and 165 cases per annum. The annual expenditure to run one court was pegged at ₹75 lakh with one judicial officer and seven support staff.

Rajasthan Cabinet rejig after Nov 2 bypoll results, hints Gehlot camp

RAJESH ASNANI @Jaipur

AMID speculations about a cabinet rejig in Rajasthan, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has denied reports of meeting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during his recent visit to Delhi.

On Saturday, Gehlot stated that he did not meet Rahul in connection with the reshuffling of the state cabinet. "Such rumours will make rounds until there is a reshuffle of the Cabinet," he asserted.

Referring to a newspaper article, he took a swipe on how it reported that Rahul was annoyed with him. "It seemed as if the reporters themselves were sitting there. Or, maybe they have some divine vision like Sanjay in Mahabharat."

Political observers are linking Gehlot's move with former deputy CM Sachin Pilot's ongoing efforts to get his aides a place in the Cabinet, PCC.

"The CM feels that some people are trying to misuse the media to spread the impression that a formula for a cabinet reshuffle was worked out through a meeting with Rahul. Through his denials, the CM is trying to clarify that there is no pressure from the high command for a cabinet rejig nor will he be forced to do so," a source in the Gehlot camp said.

As the Rajasthan bypoll results will be out on November 2, any political announcement are likely to be made only after it, they added.

First-time Cong MLA joins BJP

BHOPAL: Just six days before bypolls to one Lok Sabha and three Assembly seats, first-time Congress MLA Sachin Birla joined the ruling BJP in Madhya Pradesh on Sunday. Birla is the 27th sitting Congress MLA to have joined the BJP since March 2020. The MLA from Barwaha joined the BJP in presence of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, agriculture minister Kamal Patel and ex-health minister Rustam Singh at a by-election rally in Bediya area of Khargone.

Coalition of small UP parties hit after Rajbhar's switch, Owaisi at loss

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

THE much discussed alliance between Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) and Samajwadi Party for the UP electoral battle has put a big question mark on the future of Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha (BSM), a conglomerate of 10 small regional and caste-based groups.

Significantly, the alliance leaves Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM in the lurch. AIMIM was among the few first political outfits to join BSM showing faith in the leadership of SBSP chief OP Rajbhar. In fact, BSM was formed for carving a base among the most and extremely backward castes and ensure their representation in politics.

Now, Rajbhar's political credibility is again on radar as after forming the BSM, he has suddenly joined hands with the SP. Once a part of the BSP, Rajbhar left to protest Mayawati's functioning. He floated the SBSP before the 2017 polls and allied with the BJP. It enabled him to expand his clout in east UP, beyond Varanasi and Gorakhpur, in 2017. In 2012, Rajbhar contested on around 50 seats winning none. In 2017, he and the BJP fought on nine seats winning four. However, the alliance fell apart during the 2019 general elections.

OP Rajbhar has announced support to Akhiklesh Yadav-led SP in Uttar Pradesh | FILE

Meanwhile, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav will have to strike equanimity among the dominant Yadavs, MBCs and EBCs as he is believed to have promised Rajbhar to implement the social justice committee's recommendations. Seat sharing will be tough as Akhilesh will have to satisfy Jayant Chaudhary's RLD too.

For Rajbhar, he will have to sacrifice ties with AIMIM whose chief is spinning the wheel of anti-Samajawadi Party discourse. "In fact, Owaisi is looking to make the kind of breakthrough he achieved in Bihar. Owaisi hoped to capitalise on the minority "discomfort" with the SP as Muslim believe that Akhilesh failed to come out in favour of jailed Azam Khan forcefully," says Prof AK Mishra, a prominent political scientist.

It is a Catch 22 situation for Owaisi as he will have to either co-exist with the SBSP-SP coalition or fight solo. However, as per highly placed sources, AIMIM and Jan Adhikar Party may part ways with BSM after the SBSP-SP alliance.

CALL TO SAFEGUARD

Kashmiri Pandits in Washington have strongly condemned recent killings of civilians in the Valley by militants and urged the Indian government to take steps to ensure the safety of minorities there

₹2 THE NEW PRICE OF A MATCHBOX

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	31	21	Mumbai	32	25
Bhopal	30	18	Panaji	30	26
Jaipur	28	17	Patna	31	19
Amritsar	24	15	Lucknow	32	20
Chennai	32	27	Port Blair	30	26
Kolkata	32	24	Imphal	28	17
Srinagar	17	05	Chandigarh	33	15

Will not allow anyone to obstruct J&K's growth: Shah

Home Minister calls for militancy-free J&K; will pay homage to 40 CRPF personnel killed in suicide bombing at Pulwama on Monday

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

HOME Minister Amit Shah on Sunday asserted that nobody would be allowed to stop Jammu and Kashmir's era of development.

"An era of development has begun in J&K and nobody will be allowed to obstruct it. We won't allow anybody to derail it," Amit Shah said while addressing a well attended rally of BJP workers at Bagwati Nagar ground in Jammu on Sunday.

Shah added, "It's the land of temples — Mata Vaishno Devi, Prem Nath Dogra, the land of the sacrifice of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee. We won't let elements who want to disrupt peace and development in Jammu and Kashmir succeed."

> I want to tell you that the figure of 30 is less, but we are not satisfied. We want to create a situation where not a single civilian is killed and militancy is wiped out from J&K
>
> Amit Shah, Home Minister

Referring to the security situation in J&K, Shah said, "Between 2000 and 2014, 2,081 civilians had been killed in Jammu and Kashmir. Every year, 208 civilians were killed. Between 2014 and 2021, 249 civilians have been killed in Jammu and Kashmir, and every year, 30 civilians have been killed since 2014."

"I want to tell you that the figure of 30 is less, but we are not satisfied. We want to create a situation where not a single civilian is killed and militancy is wiped out from Jammu and Kashmir," he asserted.

After his arrival on a three-day visit to Srinagar on Saturday, Shah chaired a security review meeting during which he directed security officials to devise a strategy to check radicalisation and militant recruitment and end militancy and prevent civilian killings in J&K.

The Home Minister asked the youth of J&K to work for the development of the state and defeat the sinister designs of militants.

Shah's first visit to Jammu and Kashmir post abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A and bifurcation of J&K state into two Union Territories (UTs) is taking place after civilian killings including targeted killing by militants in the Valley this month.

Militants have killed 12 civilians including five migrant workers, three minority community members and four locals this month so far. The killing of migrant workers and minority community members has led to the exodus of non-local labourers from the Valley.

The home minister is scheduled to visit Lethpora, Pulwama in southern Kashmir on Monday afternoon to pay homage to 40 CRPF men killed in suicide bombing by Jaish militant on February 14, 2019.

Home Minister Amit Shah and J&K L-G Manoj Sinha with residents of Maqwal, the last village within India's boundary | TWITTER

No mention of Pakistan in speech

SRINAGAR: Even as Union Home Minister Amit Shah skipped reference to Pakistan in his two public speeches during his ongoing three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir, National Conference (NC) president and three-time former J&K chief minister Farooq Abdullah on Sunday pitched for India-Pakistan dialogue. In his two public speeches, one in Srinagar on Saturday and another in Jammu (rally) on Sunday, Shah didn't mention Pakistan. However, Farooq told a public meeting in the border township of Mendhar in Poonch district: "India and Pakistan should work towards this objective." Farooq recalled former PM Vajpayee's statement, "friends can be changed but the neighbours."

Civilian killed in Shopian cross-firing; 4 hurt in Poonch

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Srinagar

ON the second day of the three-day visit of Home Minister Amit Shah to Jammu and Kashmir, a civilian was killed in cross-firing in southern Kashmir's Shopian district on Sunday.

A Lashkar militant was killed and three security men injured in a fresh gunfight in Poonch forest area.

A police official said at around 10.30 am, militants attacked a Naka party of 178 Bn CRPF at Babapora, Shopian in south Kashmir. He said the CRPF men retaliated and during cross-firing, one unidentified person got killed. The deceased was identified as Shahid Aijaz from Anantnag. The picture of the youth lying dead on a road near the front tyre of a vehicle has gone viral on social media. Near the body lies a bag with scattered fruits and vegetables. "He was shot dead & his bag has no weapons or explosives, he's carrying fruit & vegetables. This policy of 'shoot first' will further alienate people. This is no way to make friends with the people or the youth of Kashmir," tweeted former J&K Chief Minister and NC vice-president Omar Abdullah.

Meanwhile, a fresh gunfight took place between militants and security forces at Bhatta Durrian forest area of Mendhar in Poonch district on Sunday. Pakistani Lashkar militant Zia Mustafa was taken to Bhatta Durian forest area for the identification of a militant hideout. When the team approached the hideout, militants fired in which two cops, army jawan and the arrested militant were injured.

Five lakh govt jobs for youths by 2022: HM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ON the employment front, Shah said 25,000 government jobs in J&K have been referred to the Services Selection Board. A total of 7,000 candidates received job letters. "Five lakh jobs will be created in J&K after the implementation of new industrial policy. And by 2022-end, lakhs of youth will land jobs," he added.

Stating grassroots democracy has been restored to J&K, Shah said, "For 70 years, three families gave only 87 Assembly seats and six MPs to J&K. But now, J&K has over 30,000 elected representatives. There is a panchayat in every village, tehsil and zila. Now there will be no more intimidation from the three families. Now, even the sarpanch and panch can become minister and chief minister," he said, adding, "I want to tell the pahari people that people winning elections in your area can also become a chief minister".

Announcing a raft of infrastructure for the Union Territory, Shah said metro rail services would be started in Jammu and Srinagar within two years. Besides, the Jammu Airport would be expanded and helicopter service would be started in every district. The home minister also inaugurated the IIT campus at Nagrota here and met BJP MPs and senior leaders.

Assam misses HC deadline for detention camp work

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

THE Assam government has missed a Gauhati High Court-set deadline to complete the construction of a standalone detention centre (now called transit camp) for the declared foreigners at Matia in the state's Goalpara district.

The state's Commissioner-Secretary (Home) Manivannan S said, "The construction is almost complete."

After hearing a petition, Justice Kalyan Rai Surana of the Gauhati High Court had on August 11 directed the Secretary of Home & Political Department, Government of Assam to file the updated status report within 45 days.

"The state envisaged that the construction of detention centre at Matia, Goalpara would be completed by September, 2021. In this regard, the learned Advocate General has submitted although he has received specific instruction from the concerned authorities of the Home Department that expeditious steps are being taken to complete the construction work within a period of one month."

"But as a matter of abundant caution, the learned Advocate General has prayed for allowing 6 (six) weeks time to the State to complete the construction and to shift the detainees of the various detention centres to the proposed detention centre," the court had said. According to the Advocate General, there were about 177 detainees in the various detention centres then.

Covid numbers rising in Bengal post Durga Puja rush

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

UNCONTROLLED footfall of revellers violating Covid safety protocol as part of Durga Puja festivities has left the West Bengal government in a cloud of concern with Covid positive cases on the rise during the past few days.

On October 16, 443 new Covid cases were recorded in past 24 hours but the number has gone up to 974 on Saturday, highest in past three months. A total of 43,159 people underwent Covid-19 tests in past 24 hours. The positivity rate too rose from 1.6 per cent in August to 2.4 per cent this month. The night curfew from 11pm to 5am was lifted for 10 days during the festive season and the state government is planning to re-impose the restriction from Thursday.

"Among the new Covid-19 positive cases, 449 persons are from Kolkata, where the festive season witnessed largescale gathering of pandal hoppers. Among the new positive cases, 257 persons are asymptomatic. The crowd that hit the city streets every day during Durga Puja triggered a concern about what would happen once the festivity will be over," said an official of the state health department.

According to health experts, the impact of lifting of Covid protocol for festive days is yet to completely reflect in newly identified positive cases.

"Before the puja days, shopping spree began in Kolkata with thousands of buyers from Kolkata and its outskirts turning up at shopping malls and market places. The buyers were ignorant about using masks and sanitisers and social distancing. It appears, the fresh covid cases are fall out of these violations," said a doctor of a Kolkata hospital.

The state health department is planning to identify pockets with heavy Covid positive cases and declare the pockets as micro containment zones to arrest further spread of the disease. "Kolkata administration and district magistrates of seven other districts have been directed to identify the areas which are needed to be identified as micro containment zones," said another official.

There were heavy crowds at puja pandals in contravention of Covid rules | FILE

Authorities to identify Covid hotspots

The state health department is planning to identify pockets with heavy Covid positive cases and declare the pockets as micro containment zones to arrest the further spread of the disease. "Kolkata administration and district magistrates of seven districts have been directed to identify areas needed to be identified as micro containment zones," said another official

Villagers allege that NDRF, SDRF teams were not provided food by govt | PTI

U'KHAND RESIDENTS COMPLAIN OF LAXITY IN RELIEF OPERATION

VINEET UPADHYAY @ Dehradun

EVEN as search for the missing trekkers continues in rain-battered Uttarakhand, complaints of mismanagement, lack of coordination and irregularities in relief work have started emerging from disaster stricken areas while people are still struggling to pick up pieces of life.

Rekha Negi, gram pradhan of Umagarh village in Ramgarh area of Nainital district, said, "There has been no help from the administration yet. No one from the government has contacted us. The village mostly has elderly who are facing multiple health related issues which makes it even more difficult for us."

Nainital district with 25 deaths remains the worst affected. Visuals of elderly being carried on palkis have emerged from the hilly areas of Ramgarh. Many alleged that the district administration failed to arrange food for the teams of National Disaster Response Force and State Disaster Response Force. It's the local residents who are taking care of the relief teams' food.

"We have been arranging food for the members of NDRF and SDRF since October 20 when they were air-dropped here for rescue and search operations. More is needed to be done," Krishna Nand Shastri from Sukna village of Nainital said.

Officials from the district administration said the residents were requested to provide good for the rescue teams and they would be paid for it.

On Sunday, director general of police Ashok Kumar visited Nainital and took a review meeting with district police officers and the inspector general of police of Kumaon division. He praised the "outstanding" performance of police and SDRF teams.

"Around 48,000 people were evacuated to safe places and 9,900 were rescued across the state. Those who have performed well will be awarded medals on upcoming January 26," he said.

MEDICINAL RESEARCH

Uttarakhand opens country's largest aromatic garden

VINEET UPADHYAY @ Dehradun

THE research wing of Uttarakhand forest department on Sunday inaugurated India's largest aromatic garden at Lalkuan of Nainital district. Established in over three acres, the garden has 140 different species of aromatic species from across India.

Sanjiv Chaturvedi IFS, who heads the research wing of the state forest department, said, "Our whole team has worked hard for over three years to see the fruition of this project. Plants were source from all over India followed by propagation efforts. I congratulate the entire team for this accomplishment." The project was initiated in 2018 to create awareness about these species, promote further research about these species and to link it with livelihood.

Veena Rao, who has been working in the field of aromatic and medicinal plants for over two decades, said, "As a consultant, with the help of the state forest department we are planning to expand the garden to 45 hectares."

The project has been funded under CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) scheme of the Centre.

Aromatic garden has 8 different sections, apart from a dedicated Tulsi Vatika- aromatic leaves (Lemon balm, Rosemary, Kapoor and various mint species) , aromatic flowers (Chameli, Mogra, Rajnigandha, Kewda); aromatic trees (Chandan, Neem Chameli, Naglingam, Parijat); aromatic rhizomes (Aama Haldi, Kali Haldi); aromatic seeds (Kasturi Bhindi, Badi ilachyi, Timur, Ajwain); aromatic grasses (Lemon grass, Java grass, Khas grass); aromatic bulbs (Red ginger, Sand ginger) and aromatic roots (Pattharchur, Vach).

Uddhav's Dussehra speech creates ripples

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has emerged as a strong leader when it comes to taking on the RSS. Uddhav Thackeray's speech at the Dussehra rally created a lot of ripples among the BJP. Thackeray spoke on various subjects and directed a blow at hardline Hindutva elements within RSS and BJP to imbibe the inclusive Hindutva ideals practiced and propagated by his grandfather Prabodhankar Thackeray. The Uddhav Thackeray speech from Dussehra showed that the chief minister not only wanted to limit himself within Maharashtra, but aimed to pitch himself as a pan India figure.

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MUMBAI DIARY

Aryan Khan case and BJP's plan for Ashish Shelar

The Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB) arrest and detention of Aryan Khan in the ongoing drug case may purportedly destabilise the vote base of sitting BJP MLA Ashish Shelar in the Bandra West constituency. Home to several Bollywood A-listers, and dominated by the Muslim and Christian voters, the election mandate in Bandra West constituency, could see repercussions following the developments in the Aryan Khan case. With Ashish Shelar's cordial relations with both the communities, the buzz within the BJP ranks suggest that leaders who are senior and among the top brass in Maharashtra are trying to settle the score with the MLA's stellar image – by unsettling his clout with the Muslim and Christian voters through the developments in the Aryan Khan case.

Former MLA earns PhD by taking time off duties

Former BJP MLA Medha Kulkarni recently earned a PhD from the Savitribai Phule Pune University. Kulkarni was denied BJP ticket in the preceding state Assembly elections to accommodate the BJP state president Chandrakant Patil. Her constituency was picked by Patil back then to take advantage of the votebank dominated by the RSS and the Brahmin community. According to experts, he was unsure of a win from his native Kolhapur constituency, which led him to choose Medha Kulkarni's home Kothrud constituency. While this reportedly slowed down her political career, the MLA has put her time to good use by realising her dream of doing PhD.

Sharad Pawar takes up ministers' grievances

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar has expressed his displeasure over unfulfilled demands of NCP ministers in the Maharashtra cabinet, despite repeated persuasions put to party leader and Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil. The ministers had complained to Pawar that the home minister was not easily approachable and that the political cases filed against NCP workers during the previous BJP regime in the state were not withdrawn. Meanwhile, Pawar also conveyed his dissatisfaction over the inaction from the part of the home minister and asked the NCP state president to ensure the interest of the NCP workers at all costs.

2 killed
and seven injured in gas blast in Chinese port city of Dalian on Sunday

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	20	6	LC	Los Angeles	16	10	SNY
Colombo	29	25	TDS	Melbourne	19	8	LR
Dhaka	30	26	TDS	Moscow	4	0	LR
Dubai	40	31	SNY	New York	24	16	SNY
Houston	32	23	SNY	Singapore	30	26	LC
Istanbul	30	20	SNY	Toronto	11	7	LC
London	16	8	LC	Washington	27	18	LC

U.K. AUTUMN BUDGET

Major funding boost for healthcare, education

Government to spend £5 billion on medical research and innovation

LONDON

UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak on Sunday unveiled a series of spending pledges ahead of his Autumn Budget statement next week, including £5 billion towards health research and innovation and £3 billion for education and skills.

The Indian-origin finance minister, who has been in charge of the country's financial response to the pandemic, reiterated his promise to do "whatever it takes" to help businesses and working families.

Among the pledges unveiled by his Treasury department ahead of Wednesday's Budget speech, £1.4 billion has been earmarked to encourage foreign investment into UK businesses and attract overseas talent; £700 million to be spent mainly on the new post-Brexit borders and immigration system, as well as a new maritime patrol fleet; £560 million for adult maths coaching to help increase numeracy; and a six-month extension to the Covid recovery loan scheme to June 2022.

"I know that families here at home are feeling the pinch of higher prices and are worried about the months ahead," Sunak writes in the *Sun on Sunday*.

Rishi Sunak

> **I want you to know, we will continue to do whatever it takes, we will continue to have your backs . And while we cannot solve these problems overnight, I'm determined to meet these challenges head on**
>
> Rishi Sunak, Chancellor of Exchequer

"But I want you to know, we will continue to do whatever it takes, we will continue to have your backs just like we did during the pandemic. And while we cannot solve these problems overnight, I'm determined to meet these challenges head on, with the same grit and determination this great nation has shown throughout the pandemic," he writes.

At the heart of his plans is a so-called 'skills revolution' covering T-Level skills qualifications for 16 to 19-year-olds.

"This £3 billion skills revolution builds on our Plan for Jobs and will spread opportunity across the UK by transforming post-16 education giving people the skills they need to earn more and get on in life," said Sunak.

And, around 5,00,000 people are expected to benefit from a new Multiply programme of free personal tutoring, digital training, and flexible courses. "Better maths can mean a better job and a bigger pay packet. Multiply will help people develop new skills and create opportunities," added Sunak.

Besides, a UK-wide trial of Covid-19 antiviral treatments will receive £33 million, while £40 million will be spent on research in social care reform, £30 million on investing in research skills and training, and £20 million on research in climate change and health.

The Autumn Budget, presented to the House of Commons, is crucial in the UK's financial calendar and will be accompanied by a Spending Review to allocate funds to different government departments. Sunak has described next week's Budget as his plan to 'invest in public services, invest in growth, and invest in jobs'. *PTI*

Rust's crew was concerned about safety

SANTA FE

HOURS before actor Alec Baldwin fired a fatal gunshot from a prop gun that he had been told was safe, a camera crew for the movie he was filming walked off the job to protest conditions and production issues that included safety concerns.

Disputes in the production of the Western film *Rust* began almost from the start in early October and culminated with seven crew members walking off several hours before 42-year-old cinematographer Halyna Hutchins was killed.

The crew members had expressed their discontent with matters that ranged from safety procedures to their housing accommodations, according to one of those who left.

He requested anonymity for fear that speaking up would hurt his prospects for future jobs.

Rust Movie Productions did not answer e-mails on Friday and Saturday seeking comment.

A film industry worker pays his respects for cinematographer Halyna Hutchins during a candlelight vigil on Saturday in New Mexico | AP

At a rehearsal on the film set Thursday at Bonanza Creek Ranch outside Santa Fe, the gun Baldwin used was one of three that a firearms specialist, or 'armorer,' had set on a cart outside the building where a scene was being rehearsed, according to the court records.

Court records indicate that an assistant director, Dave Halls, grabbed a prop gun off a cart and handed it to Baldwin, indicating incorrectly that the weapon didn't carry live rounds by yelling 'cold gun.'

Court records say that Halls grabbed the firearm from the cart and brought it inside to the actor, also unaware that it was loaded with live rounds, a detective wrote in a search warrant application.

When Baldwin pulled the trigger, he unwittingly killed Hutchins and wounded director Joel Souza, who was standing behind her inside a wooden, chapel-like building.

Halls did not immediately return phone and e-mail messages seeking comment.

New Mexico workplace safety investigators are examining if film industry standards for gun safety were followed during production of Rust.

The Los Angeles Times, citing two crew members it did not name, reported that five days before the shooting, Baldwin's stunt double accidentally fired two live rounds after being told the gun didn't have any ammunition. *AFP*

ASIA MATTERS

PAKISTAN

10 killed as rival tribes clash

At least 10 people have died and fifteen others were injured in gun battle between rival factions in the tribal areas of Pakistan over disputed possession of forest land. The clashes began on Saturday afternoon when the Gaidu tribe belonging to Teri Megel village in Kurram district, opened fire on Pewar tribe members who were picking firewood in their village. There has been tension between both tribes over the ownership of forest land in the Upper Subdivision of Kurram district, officials said. The gunmen operated from trenches. Heavy weapons and even rocket launchers were used by both sides," a police said. Kurram is a border district in northwest Pakistan

SINGAPORE

Premier Lee rules out indefinite lockdown

Singapore cannot go into an indefinite lockdown and stand still, but also cannot "simply let go and let things rip", Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has said, as the city state sought to overcome the negative impact of the pandemic. "We have to travel this road to get to living safely with Covid-19. We want to get there with as few casualties as possible," Lee said. Singapore's task force announced on Saturday a slew of measures for the effective opening up of the city-state. These include requiring vaccination for all staff returning to work from January

THAILAND

Bangkok bars battle to beat booze ban

As gin bottles gather dust, a Bangkok bar owner is trying to keep his joint going through a Covid booze ban with fruity mocktails seasoned with kratom, a recently decriminalised tropical herb. The Thai capital's once-legendary nightlife has been hammered by a seven-month ban on alcohol service imposed to curb the coronavirus, leaving pub and bar owners with a major headache. Thailand has registered around 1.7 million infections, the lion's share since April when the government called last orders after an outbreak traced to a cluster of high-end nightclubs. Draconian travel curbs imposed to fight the coronavirus have battered the economy in Thailand, where tourism accounted for 20 per cent of national income

US trying to sabotage CPEC, claims project authority's head

ISLAMABAD

CHIEF of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority has accused the United States of sabotaging the multi-billion dollar project, the economic lifeline of Pakistan, a media report said.

The ambitious CPEC was launched in 2015 when Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Pakistan. It aims to connect western China with the Gwadar seaport in southwestern Pakistan through a network of roads, railways and other projects of infrastructure and development.

"From the point of view of the emerging geo-strategic situation, one thing is clear: the United States supported by India is inimical to CPEC. It will not let it succeed. That's where we have to take a position,' Khalid Mansoor, the Special Assistant to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on CPEC affairs said while addressing the CPEC Summit at the Institute of Business Administration in Karachi on Saturday.

Islamabad is the seventh largest recipient of Chinese overseas development financing with 71 projects worth $ 27.3 billion currently underway as part of the CPEC.

Many Western think tanks and commentators have termed the CPEC an economic trap that has already resulted in bloated public debt levels and disproportionately high Chinese influence in Pakistan's economy, a report in the Dawn newspaper said.

The premier's aide said the United States and India continue to 'make attempts to manoeuvre Pakistan out of' China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the report said. "There's no way Pakistan will forgo any of its benefits. It has more than once burnt its fingers in alliance in the past," he said, adding that their attempts to dilute China's strategic influence in the region will fail. *PTI*

Tehreek march on hold after deal with Pak to release leader Saad Rizvi

ISLAMABAD

A radical Islamist party agreed on Sunday to suspend for three days its march of thousands toward the capital Islamabad after Pakistan agreed to drop pending charges against the party's leader.

Party supporters Saturday departed the eastern city of Lahore, clashing for a second straight day with police who lobbed tear gas into the crowd. The group began its journey a day earlier with the goal of reaching Islamabad to pressure the government to release Saad Rizvi, head of the Islamist Tehreek-e-Labiak Pakistan party. Rizvi was arrested last year amid demonstrations against France over the publication of caricatures of Islam's Prophet Muhammad.

Raja Basharat, provincial law minister, told The Associated Press that under the agreement Punjab will withdraw charges against Rizvi and release all those detained during the protest march by Tuesday. Rizvi had been detained pre-emptively on a charge of inciting people to assemble unlawfully. It was unclear when he would be released. Basharat also said the agreement stipulates that the federal government will honour a previous agreement with the TLP to address diplomatic ties with France over the publication of the caricatures.

Sajid Saifi, spokesman for Rizvi's party, confirmed the minister's account and said thousands of party supporters will stay in the town of Mureedke waiting for the release of party leaders and members who have been detained.

Pakistan Interior Minister Shaikh Rashid Ahmed told reporters that the TLP's demand that the French ambassador to Pakistan be expelled over the caricatures would be taken to a parliamentary committee in the coming days. Basharat, Ahmed and Religious Affairs Minister Noorul Haq Qadri took part in the talks with the TLP executive council.

Violent clashes erupted between security forces and the Islamists in Lahore killing at least two police and injuring about a dozen, police said. Saifi claimed four party supporters were killed by police fire and 'many' were injured. Police said the demonstrators torched several police vehicles. Rizvi's party gained prominence in 2018 elections, campaigning on the single issue of defending the country's blasphemy law.

EXPRESS READ

Obama attacks GOP ahead of Virginia poll

Richmond: Former US President Barack Obama offered a sharp rebuke of the Republican candidate for Virginia governor, Glenn Youngkin, as he encouraged voters on Saturday to support Democrat Terry McAuliffe. Obama accused Youngkin of portraying himself as a friendly everyman while encouraging "lies and conspiracy"

Colombian drug lord on the run for more than a decade nabbed

COLOMBIAN SECURITY FORCES HAVE CAPTURED THE COUNTRY'S MOST WANTED DRUG TRAFFICKER, A RURAL WARLORD WHO STAYED ON THE RUN FOR MORE THAN A DECADE BY CORRUPTING STATE OFFICIALS AND ALIGNING HIMSELF WITH COMBATANTS ON THE LEFT AND RIGHT

This is the hardest strike to drug trafficking in our country this century

Ivan Duque, Colombian President

A Colombian soldier escorting Dairo Antonio Usugay (R) after his capture in Bogota | AFP

HEAD OF FEARSOME GANG

Úsuga, better known by his alias Otoniel, is the alleged head of the Gulf Clan gang, whose army of assassins has terrorised much of northern Colombia to gain control of cocaine smuggling routes through thick jungles north to Central America

The Colombian government blames the Gulf Clan—financed through drug trafficking — for being one of the main drivers of the worst bout of nationwide violence since the signing of a peace pact with FARC guerillas in 2016

HOW HE EVADED CAPTURE FOR SO LONG

According to police, Otoniel was hiding in the jungle in the Colombia's Uraba region, where he is from, and did not use a telephone, relying on couriers to communicate

He avoided capture over the years using guerrilla tactics, including only travelling by foot or donkey and never sleeping two straight nights in the same place. Fearful of authorities, he slept in the rain, never approaching inhabited areas, an official said

BIGGEST JUNGLE OPERATION

Authorities said US and UK intelligence led 500 soldiers and members of Colombia's special forces to Úsuga's jungle hideout, which was protected by an eight rings of security

It was "the biggest penetration of the jungle ever seen in the military history of our country", the country's president said

16% increase in Colombian land dedicated to the production of coca — the raw ingredient of cocaine

2,45,000 hectares of Colombian territory under coca production. Colombia is the world's top provider of cocaine, with the United States as its principal market

ART IN THE DESERT

A camel stands next to an installation by Italian artist Lorenzo Quinn, titled *Together*, at the ancient Giza necropolis on the western outskirts of the Egyptian capital's twin city of Giza on Sunday | AFP

Hasina blames vested interests for B'desh unrest

DHAKA

PRIME Minister Sheikh Hasina said on Sunday that certain quarters with vested interests were disseminating propaganda to create communal divide and tarnish the image of Bangladesh, as the country recovers from a slew of violence against Hindus and mob attacks on temples during Durga Puja festivities, according to a media report.

Attacks on Hindu temples intensified in Bangladesh since October 13 after an alleged blasphemous post surfaced on social media during the Durga Puja celebrations. On the night of October 17, a mob damaged 66 houses and set on fire at least 20 homes of Hindus in Bangladesh.

"No one can make Bangladesh go backwards. Some of the incidents that we occasionally see are orchestrated. It is being done intentionally so that Bangladesh's image is damaged," Prime Minister Hasina was quoted as saying by bdnews24.com.

Speaking during the inauguration of the Payra bridge in southern Bangladesh, Hasina said that "certain quarters with vested interests are disseminating propaganda aimed at creating a communal divide." She, however, did not name any one.

"No matter how much good work we do, there is a quarter that is occupied with discrediting Bangladesh. What do they want? They don't want the normal democratic process to continue in this country," she said, urging people to be wary of the attempts to destabilise the country.

Sheikh Hasina

Eight people died as communal violence spread to several other districts amid the festivities, the report said.

The Durga Puja celebrations, considered to be the biggest festival of the minority Hindu community in Bangladesh, concluded without the traditional Bijoya Dashami procession.

Bangladesh's security agencies on Saturday arrested Shaikat Mandal, who is believed to be the second key suspect behind the recent violence. His arrest came a day after police had nabbed Iqbal Hossain, 35, the key suspect from Cox Bazar area.

So far, police have arrested nearly 600 people from various parts of the country for inciting violence against the Hindus.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Hasina instructed her home minister to initiate immediate action against those who incited violence using religion as she asked the people not to trust anything on social media without fact-checking. The Foreign Ministry underlined that the Government of Bangladesh "unequivocally condemned those incidents and took serious note of the reactions from within and outside the Hindu community." *PTI*

₹3,825 cr Pulled out from Indian markets by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) so far in October

RAJAS KELKAR

CELEBRATIONS are about to begin ahead of the festive and marriage season. There is already a visible surge in shopping activity. Indian imports surged to 91 tonnes in September 2021 from merely 12 tonnes in the year-ago period.

In addition to that, gold buying is all set to get a further boost. The Reserve Bank of India is also selling a tranche of Sovereign Gold Bonds this week. These bonds are a part of the government borrowing programme. You get an additional 2.5% interest in addition to the return linked to the market price of gold.

When you buy gold, it is not an investment. It is your capital protection plan. There is a tendency in Indian households to hoard gold. Usually, all the gold is held in the form of jewellery, gold coins or bars. You need to evaluate the amount of gold you hoard. Yes, it is an excellent way to protect your wealth. But, is it a good investment? It is not if you do not manage it actively, according to the latest RBI monthly bulletin.

"While gold acts as a haven and provides diversification benefits to the portfolio, it does not offer any yield. Holding physical gold comes at a cost," an analysis said while referring to the gold reserves held by central banks around the world. RBI holds over 770 tonnes of gold as part of reserves. The US Federal Reserve has over 8,000 tonnes of gold. With so much holding, RBI wishes to figure out ways to generate a better return.

At a household level, attitudes matter a lot. A new World Gold Council report on the demand for gold in India highlights exciting trends. Three main factors influenced the gold demand over the years. These include income, gold price level and government taxes.

When people earn well, they tend to buy gold in India. For every one per cent increase in per capita income, gold demand rises 0.9%.

For every 1% increase in gold prices, the demand for gold in India falls 0.4%, according to the WGC analysis.

The correlation of the demand for gold is greater with income than with gold prices. If prices of gold rise, under normal circumstances, the demand should fall. However, data reveals that when Indian households had more money, they bought more gold irrespective of the surge in the price. India's annual gold demand rose to 1,000 tonnes per annum from around 700 tonnes even when gold prices soared by 137% between 2000-2010. India's economy witnessed strong growth in the decade. In February 2006, the Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Act or MNREGA was passed. It substantially lifted rural incomes. That perhaps explains the surge in the gold demand.

The other important thing highlighted by the study is the inflation factor. For every 1% rise in consumer price inflation, gold demand increases 2.6%. There is a tendency to find refuge in gold to tackle the impact of rising prices.

The approach of the rural market towards growth is likely to continue unabated. With the government's aim to double farmers' income by 2022, there is a good chance that the demand for gold from rural households could remain robust.

What it means to you

The WGC research reveals that the affinity for gold is here to stay. This column has maintained that you must look at gold buying in the overall context of financial planning. It is a way to protect your wealth. However, you also need to beat inflation to grow your wealth consistently.

For increasing your wealth, you need to invest regularly for years in equity markets to create any meaningful wealth. A common-sense approach would be to look at a twenty-year trend. The BSE Sensex hovered around 3400 in 2001 and has crossed 61000 today. Gold prices were around ₹4,500 per 10 gms then and are under ₹50,000 today.

Your long-term investing plans need more than the glitter of gold. If you think you have enough gold in the form of jewellery, then you must look to buy gold in the form of sovereign gold bonds or exchange-traded funds. In the same breath, you can buy index funds instead of gold. It is a lot easier to do that through mobile applications and online platforms.

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

SOUMYADIP SINHA

GOLD DEMAND

When people earn well, they tend to buy gold in India. For every 1% increase in per capita income, gold demand rises 0.9%. For every 1% increase in gold prices, the demand for gold in India falls 0.4%, say WGC analysis. The gold demand correlation is greater with income than with gold prices.

YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS GOLD DEFINES YOUR FINANCES

How to wade through new auto-debit rules

Customer consent now required for recurring payments of over ₹5k

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

THE Twitter/social media space has been full of complaints of late, by aggrieved users who have not been able to renew their subscriptions – either with an OTT platform, a newspaper/magazine or hosting space for a website.

After RBI's e-mandate guidelines on recurring payments from debit or credit cards came into existence, people have been facing problems with many periodic payments/renewals, which earlier used to happen on their own.

New guidelines require all such recurring payments over ₹5,000 mandated through credit or debit cards should seek consent from the customer through additional authentication in the form of One-Time-Password. This has caused certain amount of inconvenience to customers, many of them not finding it difficult to pay their utility bills, insurance premiums or renew subscriptions of OTT platforms or news websites. But not everyone is complaining.

Subhasree Mazumdar (35), an HR professional who was till recently actively looking for a job change, had taken the paid services of LinkedIn, a professional networking website. Within a month, she was able to land a new job, and she did not feel the need for the paid services of LinkedIn. However, she kept forgetting to stop the service, and for three months she paid around ₹5000 a month.

There are many like Subhasree, who subscribe to paid services of some or other website using the recurring payment mode through credit or debit card. Many of them do not remember to stop and keep paying for them without using the services.

Some experts say that the RBI's recent guidelines on recurring payment might add a bit of inconvenience but it gives more control to the customers as far as payment of these services are concerned. All one need to do is make some adjustments.

Need a reset

You might already have been getting messages from your services providers, who likely would be impacted from the new guidelines. Banks are also sending mails and SMS alerts about the changes/tweaking needed to be made to continue availing different services without any hindrance.

OTT platforms like Amazon and Netflix have been providing alternate ways of payment. When The New Indian Express contacted Netflix for issues their customers are facing with the new guidelines, they refused to make any comment but they shared with us a list of instructions issued to their clients.

"If you choose a recurring payment method, Netflix may ask you for a one-time re-authentication 1 - 7 days before your next billing date, then your Netflix membership will automatically be charged each month," says the instruction issued by Netflix.

It further says that debit and credit cards must be enabled by bank for recurring e-commerce transactions. It also says that one would have to 'enable' the cards for international transactions.

Amazon asks its Kindle subscribers that in order to continue the auto renewal for subscriptions and make recurring payments, choose an alternate eligible payment instrument and re-subscribe for a recurring Kindle Unlimited subscription by logging into the Amazon account.

In case of all the transactions greater than ₹5,000 or if the bill amount is greater than the deductible limit set by you while signing up for a subscription, you will also receive an OTP from the bank. You will have to approve all such transactions by logging into the bank's website.

Typically, you can view all your standing instructions in one place. Go to the credit/debit card section of the bank website. You will find the link to standing instructions and recurring transactions. Once you are inside this page, you can click on manage recurring transactions, and approve transactions greater than ₹5,000.

Once you have clicked the approve button, the bank will send you an OTP to complete the transaction.

However, auto-debit mandate of only those merchants/billers would be approved who are compliant with the RBI guidelines. The list of all such biller and merchants would be available on your bank website.

One must remember the new guidelines pertain only to recurring payments mandated through credit and debit cards and they do not in anyways impact your EMI or SIP payments, which are initiated through special mandate given to the banks.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE RULES

The new guidelines ensure better safety and control over your standing instructions for the payment of utility bills, phone bills, insurance, DTH and OTT

New auto-debit guidelines affect only recurring payments through credit/ debit cards

PAYMENT OF SIPS, HOME LOAN EMIS DEBITED THROUGH BANK ACCOUNTS ARE NOT TO BE IMPACTED

Mandatory Additional Factor Authentication (OTP) for a bill amount higher than ₹5000 is required

Your bank will only allow auto-debit of merchants or billers who comply with new RBI guidelines

MONEY-WISE

WHY MEDICAL INSURANCE MATTERS

FIRST the caveat - I do not sell any insurance - medical or life. This article has been triggered by a young friend who has recently been handed over a ₹76-lakh bill and has no clue who is going to pay for it.

Yes, you are right, ₹76-lakh cover is NOT what you and me will ever have, but this person had 3-lakh - which is anyway too low!

He is an entrepreneur in the Social media business. He does not want to go to the SM asking for money - it will destroy his image, right?

What I suggest to everybody (especially for entrepreneurs with a start-up) is to take (say) a ₹5-7 lakh of base cover, a critical illness cover, a top-up insurance and a super-top up - all together totalling ₹50 lakh. The term insurance cover, of course, has to cover all the loans, spouse's retirement, and children's education, marriage, and other lifestyle needs. Lifestyle needs could mean tennis lessons, swimming classes, etc.

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM

writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹ 40 a day'

Medical insurance is a complicated business - with top-up, super top-up, renewable policy, critical illness, etc. - so please engage with an agent. The agent will help you with the documentation, claims, medical examination, etc. In case of Term Life Insurance, I strongly advise you to go direct online.

Remember whatever you do with cancer insurance - remember it will not cover diagnostic tests, travel, conveyance, loss of pay for the caretaker, lifestyle changes etc. So for covering all this, I suggest that you start with a separate SIP of ₹7500 per month. You should name it the "Medical SIP fund". What it does is that it mentally prepares you for spending this money in case of an emergency.

Say a family member is impacted with Cancer (or liver failure or kidney failure) - it sets you back mentally, and emotionally. Let us say you have a ₹25-lakh medical cover - base cover, floater, and a Super Top-up. You also have a corporate cover from your company which covers "exceptional trauma" to the extent of ₹10 lakh.

None of this will cover the diagnostic tests, and the loss of income. Say this shortfall is ₹3 lakh. If this has to come from 'generic' fund, you will feel the hurt far more! However if your "Medical SIP fund" has say ₹9 lakh - you will feel less bad. Of course, it is psychological, but so what. Your discussion with your family will be like "I have kept aside some money for such emergencies. and you know what.I have ₹9 lakh in that fund, and we need only ₹3 lakh to be funded out of it, so we are not so badly off!"

If you have never removed money in distress, you will not appreciate this - but preparing the mind is just as important. I am sure you know somebody who has been impacted by cancer (or liver illness) - talk to them. Ask them how they prepared mentally, physically, and financially. You will hear horror stories of dramatic change in lifestyle. That cannot be avoided, let us just try to be better prepared. Let us hope that it never happens to us. Never.

Insurance is good, but it does not cover anything. What you can do is Save. Invest. Insure and, of course, Pray that you don't need to call on the policy, ever.

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

ICICI BANK

Current Price ₹759.10

Target Price ₹835

Restructured loans remain under control at 0.7% of loans. Provision coverage remains best in the industry and additional Covid-19 provision buffer (0.9% of loans) provides comfort on normalisation in credit cost. We expect RoA/RoE to improve to 1.8%/15.3% for FY23E. We maintain Buy rating.

— Motilal Oswal Securities Limited

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *The New Indian Express*.

Investing into various stages during a company's life cycle

PANKAJ CHOPRA

IF you look at it from an overall basis, there are two types of persons in the economy. First are those who have set up and run a business on their own. We call them entrepreneurs. The second category is of people who work for a remuneration from either the Government, a public sector enterprise or a private company. We call them the salaried class.

The salaried class progresses as they go through their career and keep saving for their various requirements, including a rainy day. They are therefore net savers and investors into the financial markets.

Typically, as entrepreneurs grow their business, the funds that they have at their disposal start to limit their ambitions. They then, if they are convinced of the long-term prospects of their business, look out for external sources of funds. This category, therefore, usually borrows from the financial markets.

As you are aware, there are several means in which these firms can raise funds. It starts with friends and family who support for some time. Then it is the formal markets. If the business has enough assets and a concrete plan, it may be able to raise debt from the various institutions and banks that lend to companies.

However, very soon there comes a need to raise equity. Equity by nature is participative. While debt will provide fixed returns and no more, equity investments may go up or down without any limits. If business fails, you may lose all money and if it does well, sky is the limit to the returns that can be generated on your investment.

So equity investment should be looked at as if someone is allowing you to participate in their business by providing capital to them. You can have your own business, run it, control it and invest into it, or the next best thing is to invest into someone else's business where you are comfortable with the person(s) and the business model. Simply put, finding the right business models and honest people who run it is the essence of all research that is done to invest into equities.

The ways you can participate in someone else's business are many. The most basic form is if you know the person from before and want to do something together, you set up a partnership firm. The person brings his knowledge and hard work, you bring in the capital. This is an extension of friends and family, where money is given only on trust and faith. If you do not know the person from before and it is unlikely that you will be the only person investing, the earliest stage of a company where external investors are invited is called Angel Investing.

As a metaphor, it denotes the investor as an angel who comes in to help at the time of need. However, this is as commercial a transaction as any. The investors analyse the business thread bare, put in several clauses in the final contribution agreement to protect their interest and try their best to get a good bargain on the pricing/valuation of the business.

This is really early-stage investing where the corporate structure has not evolved. It is being run by two-three persons on an ad-hoc basis; the underlying business model or technology has not been fully proven. Therefore, the risks of the firm failing are the highest, but if it succeeds, the returns can be in hundreds of percentages (multibaggers).

Angel investing has over the last few years become much more organised. There are platforms that have been developed where both investors and fundraising companies are associated. When a company decides to raise capital, it approaches the platforms where all enrolled investors can then look at the opportunity together. There are also many angel funds that have been launched where if the investor can put in some capital but does not have the time and inclination to research investment opportunities on her/his own, they invest into these funds which are professionally managed and do the due diligence as well as invest into early-stage companies.

The point to note about angel investing is that it is a very high-risk/ very high-return option. It may not suit everyone, and even if it does, it would be prudent to invest only a small allocation into this category of investment, that too spread over several investee companies, either directly or through an appropriate fund, so that even if some do not do well and the others do perform, the overall return would be more stable and manageable.

(The author is the founder of Five Rivers Portfolio Managers)

EXPRESS READ

Honda Motorcycle set to foray into EV space

New Delhi: Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) is set to launch its first electric product in the country in the next financial year, a top company official told PTI. The company aims to start feasibility run of the electric scooter with its dealer partners at the end of the festive season this year. HMSI President, MD and CEO Atsushi Ogata said the company has decided to foray into the segment after having a detailed discussion with its parent firm -- Honda Motor Company in Japan.==

RIL energy may add 10% of EBITDA in 5 yrs

New Delhi: Reliance Industries Ltd has made a wave of partnerships to give shape to its green energy business that spans solar, battery and hydrogen investments and could contribute almost 10% of the company's pre-tax profits in five years, brokerage Bernstein said in a report. "With these investments, Reliance has acquired the expertise and technology portfolio to start to build a fully integrated end-to-end renewables energy ecosystem through solar, batteries and hydrogen," it said.

Rising fuel prices make households in top 10 cities budget-conscious: Survey

AROUND 60% of households in top 10 cities of the country are spending during the ongoing festive season, but the rising prices of petrol and diesel and increased prices of essentials have made them more budget- or value-conscious, according to a survey released on Sunday.

Online platform LocalCircles in its '*Mood of the Consumer*' national survey covering over 61,000 households across top 10 cities claims to have seen a huge improvement in consumer sentiment.

According to the survey, the percentage of households planning to spend during festive season 2021 jumped from 30% in May 2021 to 60% in September 2021, as Covid-19 cases drastically reduced and economic certainty improved in these four months.

"Most households from these top 10 cities have been sharing in the past 30 days the concerns related to rising prices of fuel and essentials and their focus on budget when shopping during this festive season in the various online communities on the LocalCircles platform," LocalCircles founder Sachin Taparia said.

He said that due to this, residents of seven of the top-10 cities rated budget as their top shopping criteria in the survey. The survey claimed that it has received responses from over 61,000 households across the top cities. *PTI*

Boxer Pooja enters quarters of nationals

Reigning Asian champion Pooja Rani (81kg) of Haryana entered the quarterfinals of the women's national boxing championship in a dominant fashion on Sunday, knocking out Kerala's Parvathi P in the first round of the pre-quarters match. World youth champions Nitu (48kg) and Ankushita Boro (66kg) also advanced to quarterfinals.

Shaheen's opening burst, coupled with fifties by Babar and Rizwan, give team their first ever men's WC win over India

INDIA PAKISTUNNED

TURNERS

First burst: Shaheen Shah Afridi lived up to his billing by sending back India openers, KL Rahul and Rohit Sharma. The pacer made it three when he claimed the wicket of Virat Kohli in his last over, the penultimate of the innings.

Resurrection: Reeling at 31/3 inside powerplay, skipper Virat Kohli and Rishabh Pant resurrected India's innings by stitching together 53 off 40 balls for the fourth wicket with the wicketkeeper-batsman being the aggressor scoring 30-ball 39.

Well begun: Pakistan openers — Mohammad Rizwan and Babar Azam — started cautiously and accumulated 71 in ten overs. The duo went on to slam an unbeaten fifty each to take team home with 13 balls to spare.

VENKATA KRISHNA B @Chennai

Shaheen Shah Afridi was the pick of the bowlers for Pakistan with three wickets against India in Dubai, on Sunday | AP

LET US start by stating the obvious. Pakistan have finally beaten India at the men's World Cup. It is a sentence that hasn't been printed ever before. After seven 50-over World Cups and six T20 World Cups, they got off the mark at the Dubai Sports City on Sunday, beating Virat Kohli & Co by 10 wickets to begin their campaign on a victorious note. And standing tall in the end was their captain Babar Azam, who managed to get the monkey off the back and achieve what not even Imran Khan achieved — beat an Indian team in a World Cup.

When ever these two teams met at World Cups, even during the heydays of Pakistan team in the 90s and early 2000s, they always let emotions take control of the occasion. It has led to comic mix-ups, dropped catches and misfields. Their best pacers have ended up losing the plot. Their best batters have wilted under pressure chasing moderate totals. The current team, led by Babar, may not have the big names but they are definitely beaming with some young gems and there is none better than Shaheen Shah Afridi, who got Pakistan off to a dream start.

At 6ft 6in, the 21-year-old may have an imposing figure, but without a beard and moustache, he still looks like the shy boy who grew up in Khyber district of Peshawar that borders Afghanistan. He may not be the life of a party, but with his yorkers – delivered from an high-arm action – and ability to bring the ball slightly back into the right-handers, he can definitely bring contests alive. Not that this rivalry needed anything. But for a contest that has been restricted to only global events, it was the sort of performance that will add gloss. Bowling full in powerplay is his biggest strength and India should have done their homework. Everyone saw what was coming. Except Kohli & Co.

Off the fourth ball of the first over, he removed Rohit Sharma with a delivery that just about angled in. The opener was still planning to work it over to mid-wicket before he was beaten for pace as the ball crashed onto his pads. Full. The umpire only had to raise his finger for customary purposes. It was stone-dead plumb. India 1/1. In the first ball of his second over, he again breached the defence of the in-form KL Rahul, who totally played down the wrong line. India 6/2 inside three overs.

Pakistan had their tails up. They have seldom got this kind of start against India and they looked in no mood to throw it away. Their fielders didn't do anything silly. Whenever the ball went up in the air, there was a green shirt not only waiting under it, but also ensured it was not grassed. And it was not until the 19th over, when Afridi conceded four overthrows, did they commit an error.

Given the start India had, they did an admiring job to put 151 on board and that was largely thanks to their captain Virat Kohli, who top-scored with 57 off 49 deliveries. On a pitch where others struggled, it was his innings that stopped India from crumbling. With Afridi still breathing fire, he broke the shackles by hitting him for a six. With No 4 Suryakumar Yadav dismissed soon after, he dropped anchor in search of a par total that would keep India in the game. Rishabh Pant played a cameo for 39 but none of them could break-free on a two-paced pitch.

The target for Pakistan was at least 20 short of a par-total. And India needed quick wickets to be in the game. Babar and Mohammad Rizwan thwarted any such hopes as their respective fifties carried Pakistan to a new territory that they have never been.

Brief scores: India 151/7 in 20 ovs (Kohli 57, Pant 39, Shaheen 3/31) **lost to** Pakistan 152/0 in 17.5 ovs (Rizwan 79 n.o., Babar 68 n.o.).

ASALANKA STARS IN LANKA VICTORY

SHARJAH: Young left-hander Charith Asalanka smashed an unbeaten 80 off 49 balls while fellow southpaw Bhanuka Rajapaksa made a quickfire half-century as Sri Lanka beat Bangladesh by five wickets in their T20 World Cup Super 12 Group 1 match here on Sunday. Earlier, opener Mohammad Naim (62) and Mushfiqur Rahim (57 not out) scored a half-century each to help their team post a formidable total of 171/4 after being invited to bat by Sri Lanka.

Brief scores: Bangladesh 171/4 in 20 ovs (Naim 62, Mushfiqur 57 n.o) **lost to** Sri Lanka 172/5 in 18.5 ovs (Asalanka 80 n.o., Rajapaksa 53, Shakib 2/17).

Afghanistan start favourites

Much intrigue surrounds the game but Afghanistan, who automatically qualified, go into it as favourites because of their spin prowess against Scotland, a side high on confidence.

AFGHANISTAN

The Mohammad Nabi-led team will hope to provide some joy to its people going through tumultuous times back home as it begins its T20 World Cup campaign against Scotland on Monday. They have never lost to Scotland in T20Is. A lot will depend on openers **Hazratullah Zazai** and Mohammad Shahzad in the batting department. The spin trio of Rashid Khan, Mohammad Nabi and Mujeeb Zadran can trouble the best of batters.

SCOTLAND

Their win against Bangladesh will keep them in good stead as they were six down for 53 before putting up a fighting total of 140 on the scoreboard, which eventually proved enough. The new ball duo of Brad Wheal and **Josh Davey** has been impressive while left-arm spinner Mark Watt has been effective in the middle overs. Their top-four batters including skipper Coetzer, George Munsey, Matthew Cross and Richie Berrington are among the runs.

LIVE ON SS1 @ 7:30PM

Salah nets hat-trick as Liverpool rout United

AP @Manchester

THERE was a pick of moments that confirmed Manchester United's humiliation against Liverpool.

Maybe it came with Mohamed Salah completing his hat trick by the 50th minute. Or in the celebrations as Liverpool defender Andy Robertson was heard repeatedly shouting "Keep going" at his teammates when they were already 5-0 up showing no mercy.

Or there was the sight of Alex Ferguson shaking his head, sighing in the Old Trafford directors' box at seeing the shambles unfolding in the team he once led to so much glory. Close by was his one-time Liverpool managerial adversary, Kenny Dalglish, beaming in delight.

Fewer United fans were there to witness the final embers of the embarrassment unfolding on Sunday, having already booed the players off at halftime.

Once Paul Pogba — United's only change when trailing 4-0 at halftime for the first time in a Premier League match — was sent off for a lunging tackle with 30 minutes remaining, the home fans started streaming away. Hundreds could be seen already outside of the stadium, heading home to leave a scene of an epic humbling.

Inside all the singing was coming from the visiting Liverpool section, mostly to taunt Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

"Ole's at the wheel," they sang, adopting the lauding of the manager adopted by the club after being used by former player Rio Ferdinand.

"Ole, give us a wave," they urged.

Real edge Barca in Clasico

Barcelona: David Alaba and Lucas Vázquez scored as Real Madrid beat Barcelona 2-1 at Camp Nou on Sunday in the rivals' first "clasico" match since the exit of Lionel Messi. Defender Alaba turned goal-scorer in the 32nd minute with a wonderful curling shot from the left side of the area that Marc-Andre ter Stegen could not stop.

Alaba's strike came minutes after American Sergiño Dest wasted a great chance for Barcelona, sending his close-range shot soaring over the crossbar.

Vázquez added a second goal in stoppage time on a counterattack with Barcelona desperately thrown forward in search of an equalizer.

Sergio Aguero pulled one back for Barcelona on a cross from Dest in the final seconds.

The victory moved Madrid to the top of the Spanish league, level on points with Sevilla and Real Sociedad. Sociedad can reclaim the lead when it faces defending champion Atlético Madrid later Sunday.

The defeat was another blow to Barcelona which has struggled since its financial troubles kept it from re-signing Messi and other players. Ronald Koeman's team was left in eighth place at five points adrift.

Liverpool's Mohamed Salah scores against Manchester United on Sunday | AP

EXPRESS READ

Harmanpreet stars for Melbourne Renegades

MELBOURNE: India's T20 skipper Harmanpreet Kaur dished out an all-round performance to guide Melbourne Renegades to a comfortable seven-wicket win over Sydney Sixers in the Women's Big Bash league on Sunday. She took two wickets for 17 runs in her four overs to restrict Sydney Sixers to 118 for 4 and then blasted an unbeaten 35 off 29 balls to script a successful chase in 17 overs. Young Shafali Verma, however, had a disappointing day as she was dismissed for a golden duck.

Korea's Ko regains top rank with LPGA title

BUSAN: South Korean star Ko Jin-young regained the world's number one spot on Sunday, capturing her fourth LPGA title of the season at the BMW Ladies Championship in South Korea. The tournament in the port city of Busan is the third Asian event in the US LPGA season this year, after stops in Singapore and Thailand in the spring. Ko clinched the win to cash the winner's check of US$300,000 in a sudden-death playoff, beating South Korea's Lim Hee-jeong who had been leading the tournament.

First Ecuadorian to win global medal shot dead

QUITO: Ecuadorian Olympic sprinter Alex Quinonez was shot dead in the port city of Guayaquil, authorities announced, sparking an outpouring of grief in a country struggling to contain a surge in violence. Quinonez, 32, and another person were found dead close to midnight local time (0500 GMT) on Friday, according to police. Ecuador's President Guillermo Lasso promised to bring his killers to justice. "Those who take the lives of Ecuadoreans will not remain unpunished. We will act with force," Lasso tweeted. The country's sports ministry confirmed Quinonez's killing on Twitter, paying tribute to "the greatest sprinter this country produced." Quinonez held Ecuador's record for the 200-meter sprint with a time of 19.87 seconds.

BOXERS SEEK WORLDS LIFT

After a forgettable show during the Tokyo Olympics, India's men boxers will be keen to prove their mettle during the World Championships, being held in Belgrade (Serbia). The preliminary stage of the marquee meet begins today. A look at how the team is shaping up...

NEW CHANCE

Amit Panghal, Vikas Krishan, Manish Kaushik. Those familiar names are not part of the team this time. It goes without saying it's a massive opportunity for new faces, who are part of the team after winning gold during the nationals, to show that they belong in the big league.

FRESH IDEAS

Even the coaching staff bears a new look with Army's Narendra Rana recently taking over as head coach. Rana has barely had time to prepare the boxers but one thing that works in his favour is he knows many boxers in the team well as they are part of Services team, where Rana was formerly the head coach. Former champions L Devendro Singh and Suranjoy Singh have also been roped in to instill fresh ideas.

EYE ON SHIVA

Shiva Thapa (63.5kg) is back where he belongs. At 27, the Assam man seems to have rediscovered his mojo and he will look to repeat or better his 2015 performance (bronze). Sanjeet (92kg) is another boxer who has fought in this competition before. Deepak Kumar (51kg) is another name, who has caught the eye of many with his performances in the past.

REVISED WEIGHT DIVISIONS

Going away from the usual 10 weight categories, this championship will witness bouts in 13 weight categories — 8kg, 51kg, 54kg, 57kg, 60kg, 63.5kg, 67kg, 71kg, 75kg, 80kg, 86kg, 92kg, and +92kg.

AIBA WANTS CLEAN OUTCOME

Focus will also be on judges and referees during the tournament as AIBA looks to shed the baggage of a tainted past. A damning internal inquiry, which revealed that there was large-scale manipulation of results in the 2016 Rio Olympics, has come as a huge blow to the sport's credibility.

Squad: Govind Sahani (48kg), Deepak Kumar (51kg), Akash (54kg), Rohit Mor (57kg), Varinder Singh (60kg), Shiva Thapa (63.5kg), Akash (67kg), Nishant Dev(71kg), Sumit (75kg), Sachin Kumar (80kg), Lakshya (86kg), Sanjeet (92kg) and Narender (+92kg).

PRIZE MONEY

GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
$100,000 (Rs 75 lakh approx)	$50,000 (Rs 37.5 lakh approx)	$25,000 (Rs 18.7 lakh approx)

Yamaguchi, Axelsen claim top prizes

AGENCIES @Odense

JAPAN's Akane Yamaguchi prevailed over South Korea's An Seyoung in a gripping three-game final to clinch the Denmark Open. Yamaguchi, who failed in her quest to win the Olympics in Tokyo earlier this year, put that disappointment behind her to claim one of the biggest titles of the year. However, that victory may feel hollow as Seyoung had to retire after trailing 18-21, 25-23, 16-5.

In the men's final, Denmark's Viktor Axelsen rallied to beat Kento Momota of Japan 22-20, 21-18, 21-12.

On a day when Japan flexed their badminton muscles, the country ended up winning all the other prizes as well. The women's doubles pair of Lee Sohee and Shin Seungchan got the better of the Chinese pair of Huang Dong Ping and Zheng Yu 21-15, 21-17.

NATIONAL RACING

Sohil, Vishnu shine as racing season picks up pace with first-round action

Winners from Race 3 of LGB Formula 4 celebrate on Sunday

MARTIN JOSEPH @ Coimbatore

FOR the likes of Sohil Shah and Ruhaan Alva, getting back on the racetrack and battling it out for the top honours was what they craved for and the first round of the 24th JK Tyre FMSCI National Racing Championship served up just that.

While Sohil roared back on Sunday to win the final race of the LGB Formula 4 Category after Vishnu Prasad pipped him in the earlier round, and his win on Saturday was chalked off due to a ten-second penalty, Ruhaan had a clean sweep in the LBG Novice Cup category. All in all, it was a good day for team MSport as Vishnu bagged another podium for them in the final race behind Sohil.

But for these emerging talents, the fact that the season is up and running after all the disruptions and uncertainties brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic is another reason for cheer. "There have been practice sessions and testing at an individual level but it's nothing like being in the heat of the battle against other top talents in a race. It really is the premier class we compete in and this championship offers the toughest races. It is great that the season is underway. I won the race but there is a lot of room for improvement and when we come back for the next round, I want to be better prepared," said Sohil after the race.

Young Ruhaan also shared a similar sentiment about getting the opportunity to get back on the tarmac.

"I couldn't race for almost a year and couldn't compete in some events which I was looking forward to. Had to rely on training on simulators for a while. That makes this championship very significant and for the drivers to return to the track and race again makes all the difference. The fact that everything went off nicely and was organised well is great," said Ruhaan. While all the attention going into the JK Tyres FMSCI Championship was on the inaugural Continental GT Cup, the Formula Car category also produced some thrilling action and Sohil believes that the competition will intensify in the rounds to come. "One mistake can prove costly and I need to improve a lot and cut out any mistakes. At the start of the season, no one knows who is at what level and what the playing field is like. Now, all the rivals would want to catch us and so we have to improve further," said Sohil.

RESULTS

LGB Formula 4 (Race 2): 1.Vishnu Prasad (MSport) 22:45.828; 2. Amir Syed (Ahura Racing) 22:49.736; 3. Chirag Ghorpade (Momentum Motorsport) 22:53.650; Race 3: 1. Sohil Shah (Msport) 19:01.088; 2. Vishnu Prasad (Chennai) (M Sport) 19:02.222; 3. Sandeep Kumar (Dark Don Racing) 19:03.875; **JK Tyre Novice Cup (Race 3):** 1. Ruhaan Alva (MSport) 21:48.110; 2. Chetan Surineni (Quest Motorsports) 21:48.714; 3. Jaden R Pariat (MSport) 21:48.985; **Royal Enfield Continental GT Cup (Race 2):** 1. Anish Damodara Shetty 13:57.731; 2. Allwin Xavier 14:06.374; 3. Anfal Akdhar 14:08.009.

Housing for All: 43 lakh dreams of a house come true

"I was shelterless, homeless...now, I can't believe my luck. Uttar Pradesh government provided me with a house and I reside in that house along with my 4 family members without any hassle", said Netrapal of Shahjahanpur who is one of those 43 lakh poor and homeless persons getting homes through government housing schemes in the four and a half years of Yogi Adityanath regime in the state.

"I am very grateful to the government for providing me a house under Mukhya Mantri Awas Yojana," adds Netrapal whose kutcha house was gutted down by fire rendering him homeless, two years ago. When he approached the authorities, he was informed of the housing scheme. In March 2020, he was allotted a house under the Mukhya Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin). Now, Netrapal and his family members are very happy to regain a house of their own.

These were the common sentiments of PM Awas Yojana beneficiaries as the as the Prime Minister Narendra Modi digitally handed over keys of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Urban (PMAY-U) houses to 75,000 beneficiaries in the first week of this month. Addressing on the event, PM Modi said, "Under PM Awas Yojana, over 80% of the houses are either owned by women or they are joint owner of these houses. "Under the PMAY, about three crore houses have been built in the country," said the Prime Minister.

Recently, while marking the completion of 4.5 years of his government, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister said that unlike the predecessors engaging in building their 'own' houses, his government delivered for the people and provided more than 42 lakh houses for the poor under PM Awas Yojana, the most among all the states in the country during this period. This could be made possible due to effective implementation of welfare schemes and the honest endeavour to provide benefits of welfare schemes to the poor and needy.

- State government constructed these houses for the poor in just 4.5 years
- CM Yogi handed over keys to 5.51 lakh PMAY-R and CMAY-R beneficiaries
- Beneficiaries include most deprived communities like Vantangias and Musahars
- More than 70 percent of beneficiaries of these schemes are women

In fact, during his 4.5 year tenure, CM Yogi Adityanath has done a remarkable job of changing the picture of rural Uttar Pradesh. The efforts of the government have resulted in economic prosperity of the villages along with social uplift of the villagers.

Under the PM Awas Yojana (Rural and Urban), around 42 lakh households have been built in Uttar Pradesh while more than 1,08,495 houses have been constructed in the state under the CM Awas Yojana (Rural).

A new saga of development in Vantangiya villages

After becoming the chief minister of UP, Yogi Adityanath has transformed the lives of the Vantangiya community. He ordered 'revenue village' status for villages inhabiting Vantangiyas and then improved their standard of living by providing 4,822 houses to the community.

Housing facilities to Musahars

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also brought about a massive change in the lives of the Musahars, one of the most deprived communities facing the brunt of hunger, malnutrition, malaise and neglect. The government provided 42,094 housing facilities to the this community.

Keys handed over to 6.25 lakh owners

Before the Prime Minister, the Chief Minister had on September 1 handed over the keys of houses to as many as 5.51 lakh beneficiaries of the PMAY-G and CMAY-G. Addressing beneficiaries, he said, "Before the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, only half the amount of money was made available to the beneficiaries." Symbolic keys were handed over to five beneficiaries of Ayodhya, Sonbhadra and Rae Bareli while the other beneficiaries attended the program through virtual medium in different districts. The chief minister also interacted with the beneficiaries through virtual medium.

71-year-old Prema Devi of Ayodhya thanked the Modi-Yogi duo for fulfilling the dream of a house. Anshu Devi of Rae Bareli told that her 'kutcha' house had collapsed in the last rain, getting a 'pucca' house in such difficult times will bring a great change in life.

Coming down heavily on the previous governments, the CM further said that casteism, regionalism and nepotism caused obstructions in the way of development in the state. "Today, the poor are moving towards development. Because, if a good government is elected, then the benefit of the schemes of the government will be seen by every poor person in every village without any discrimination".

70 percent female beneficiaries

Notably, about 70 percent of beneficiaries under the PMAY are females. CM hailed it saying, "Through this scheme, these women are on the path of becoming self-reliant". He also made a mention of the development in Lakhimpur district of Uttar Pradesh, where a township is being developed in Londonpur. Along with housing, the beneficiaries will get a cow protection center, toilets, good roads and parks.

Appreciating the work done by the Department of Rural Development the CM asked to connect all women with the self-help groups. Around 52 lakh women of the state were linked with the rural livelihood mission.

ODOP : Local turns Global

The Yogi government has done an unprecedented job by promoting the unique craft and craftsmanship of Uttar Pradesh, not available anywhere else in the country. Therefore, the UP government's innovative scheme 'One District One Product' has given global recognition to the local products of the state. The scheme has given remarkable fame to various crops and products, from the ancient and nutritious Kala namak rice, rare and unimaginable wheat stalk crafts to the world-famous Chikankari, Zari-Zardozi work on clothes and also the very complex crafts made of horns and bones obtained from dead animals.

The scheme is playing an important role in the success of the self-reliant Uttar Pradesh programme. It has shown the way and created an environment which has provided the local workers an opportunity and economic freedom to fulfil their dreams by using the optimum potential of their ability.

On the other hand, free training and free advanced tool kits have been provided to handi-craftsmen and artisans under the ODOP Training and Toolkit Scheme. Also, record tool kits have also been provided to handicraftsmen under Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana. The government has also constituted the Matikala Board to encourage the talent of craftsmen and handicraftsmen.

A carpet expo mart has been constructed in Bhadohi at a cost of Rs 197.21 crore for the expansion of the carpet industry.

Besides, the construction of Khadi Bhawan in Lucknow for the promotion of Khadi, cottage and rural industries has paved the way for ensuring profit to the workers associated with the sector.

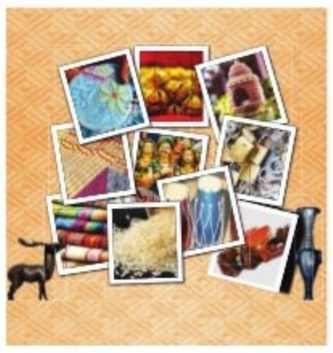
CFCs help improve the quality of the products

The Yogi government has been developing small industries in the form of a cluster to encourage traditional industries. A Common Facility Center (CFC) is being provided to traditional industries under the One District One Product Samanya Suvidha Kendra Yojana, which has helped in improving the quality of local products. Also, work has got underway at these centres under a side scheme to promote the export of local products.

Facilitation centres are being set up in other districts including Ghaziabad, Mirzapur, Bhadohi, Moradabad, Mainpuri, Mau, Agra, Bijnor and Muzaffarnagar at a cost of Rs 73.54 crore. Soon, with the installation of state-of-the-art machines, all these centres will prove to be a great help to the local entrepreneurs.

'Kala namak rice' tickles the taste buds of the world

The aroma of Kala namak rice, famous for its distinctive taste, is spreading all over the world today. Known by different names such as 'Mahaprasad of Lord Buddha', 'Pride of Purvanchal', etc, this rice is considered to be unmatched in terms of both aroma and taste. Its productivity was increased through technology after it was declared as a distinct product of Siddharthnagar under the 'One District-One Product' in January 2018 by the state government. It has enabled the farmers to get its direct benefit.



Kala namak rice is more nutritious and tastier than traditional rice as it contains a good amount of iron and zinc. The Ministry of Agriculture has declared it as ODOP of Maharajganj, Gorakhpur, Basti and Sant Kabir Nagar, besides Siddharthnagar.

It is being produced in more than 50,000 hectares in Purvanchal.

An Eventxpress Initiative

Over 29.68 lakh women benefitted under Destitute Women Pension Scheme

'Poshan Mah' campaign launched to take care of the under-nourished

Ensuring welfare and socio-economic empowerment of the widows in the state, the Yogi Adityanath government has provided a shield to the destitute women. Around 29.68 lakh widowed women have been given pension under the destitute women pension scheme. As many as, 1.73 lakh new beneficiaries were added in the year 2021-22, while a total of 12.36 lakh new beneficiaries were covered under the scheme during the 4.5 years tenure of the Yogi government.

In fact, the government has also abolished the age limit for this scheme. The annual income limit has also been increased to Rs 2 lakh and a quarterly amount of Rs 500 per month is being paid to the eligible beneficiaries directly in their bank account.

Nutrition campaign to help under-nourished

Another welfare scheme that directly targets the women and children in the nutrition campaign run as 'Poshan Maah'. The scheme aims to improve the nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. The month-long 4th 'Poshan Maah-2021' was launched in the first week of September. Stressing the importance of the campaign, the CM Yogi Adityanath said, "If the mother is malnourished then the child can never be well-nourished and therefore, it is necessary to pay attention to the health of the mother."

The Chief Minister in his address in the inaugural programme urged every Indian to get associated with this national program stating, "When a mother or a child is malnourished then the problem is not only for a family but the whole society, the whole nation faces the challenge. These campaigns are not just for a mother and child, but it is a process of building a strong nation."

During the Poshan Maah, pregnant women are given 'Shagun' card (Goad Bharayi Card- to educate them about proper nutrition during their trimesters) and beneficiaries are provided with nutritious food items mostly distributed through Anganwadi centres.

Campaign divided in four themes

The entire month has been subdivided into weekly themes for a focused and assimilated approach towards improving Holistic Nutrition. It has Plantation Activity in form of Poshan Vatika at spaces available in Anganwadi Centres (AWCs), Schools, Panchayats and other public spaces in the first week, while Yoga and Ayush activities are there in the second week. Third week relates to public awareness on local food and distribution of nutrition supplements, while in the last week, the department will identify the children in the category of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and create mass awareness on nutritious food.

Regular care for women and children

Apart from this special campaign, the state government has a Bal Vikas Seva Evam Pushtahar department under the Ministry of Women and Child Development that runs regular welfare programmes for the women and childred. Most important of these programmes include provision of supplementary nutrition to the mal-nourished and severely malnourished children, pregnant and lactating mothers and adolescent girls. Under the decentralized system, at present, 897 projects are running across the state to provide hot cooked food to the children in the age group of 03 to 06 years through Matri Samitis at Anganwadi centers.

Empowerment of differently abled

Ensuring empowerment of the differently abled persons, the state government increased the amount of pension from Rs. 300 per month to Rs. 500 per month. Currently 11,18,809 differently abled persons in the state are getting the Divyang Pension. This pension is given to persons with disabilities having completed 18 years of age. The degree of disability has to be 40 percent at minimum.

The government also runs schemes to help the differently able by providing them free artificial limbs and aids. The government has provided such limbs and aids to 1,77,971 persons. It also gave grants for marriage of the differently abled persons. So far 3,327 persons in this category have been given grants. In case of boys, the grant is Rs 15,000 while in the case of differently abled girls, it is Rs. 20,000. In case of the both of the marrying persons being PWDs, a grant of Rs. 35,000 is given.

55.77 lakh elderly persons benefitted with Old Age Pension in UP

HIGHLIGHTS

- CM Yogi transfers Rs 836.55 crore to beneficiaries' accounts
- CM assures of basic amenities to everyone. Says, be it ration or medicine, every need of the elderly will be fulfilled
- Over 29 lakh new beneficiaries started getting old age pension in last 4.5 years
- As many as 4.56 lakh new beneficiaries added to the National Old Age Pension scheme

Having the welfare of the weaker sections as one of his prime objectives, the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has assured that every poor, farmer, elderly person and destitute woman should get the benefit of the welfare scheme of the government without any discrimination. He asserted that no one will be deprived of basic amenities in the state.

"It is the intention of the government that every poor, farmer,elderly person and destitute woman should get the benefit of the welfare scheme of the government without any discrimination. No one will be deprived of basic necessities or die of hunger in Uttar Pradesh," said CM Yogi while transferring Rs 836.55 crore to 55.77 lakh beneficiaries of National Old Age Pension Scheme. The CM also told that out of these beneficiaries there were 4.56 lakh new beneficiaries and quarterly installment was being sent to these accounts for the first time.

Saying that the older people possess a wealth of experience, the Chief Minister Praised them as social guides. The Central and State Governments are working with a sense of service to manage the life and livelihood of each and every senior citizen. The CM asserted, "Whether the elderly needs ration or medical treatment at the time of illness, everything is being provided free of cost.

Needy elders to get ayushman scheme benefits

In the same spirit, the Chief Minister after inquiring from the beneficiaries about their problems, instructed the district magistrates to provide the benefit of Ayushman Bharat or Chief Minister Jan Arogya Yojana to every needy. He also said that in the earlier governments, the elderly have been neglected. Due to this they used to be worried, but now the work of fulfilling every need of the present government of the state is being done on priority. It may be recalled that the state government has been making efforts for a better life of old people. In the past 4.5 years, more than 29 lakh elderly people were brought under the cover of the old age pension scheme.

Elder Helpline for the senior citizens

Keeping in view the need for support to the elderly, the state government has also instituted an Elder Helpline 14567. Any senior citizen can get help 24x7 by contacting this number. Elders also expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister.

Enhanced pension for 65 elderly artists

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's love towards folk arts and the folk artistes is well known. For the first time, with the efforts of CM Yogi, the Central government approved payment of Rs. 6,000 per month pension to as many as 65 aged and poor artistes. It comes along with a health insurance cover of Rs one crore to them and their family members. The government is working to cover more and more artistes under the pension plan. It targets to add 2,000 such artistes to the list of those receiving pension by the end of this year.

Yogi government has endeavoured to pay respect to the art and also provide financial security to the artistes. In view of this, the state government started giving them monthly pension of Rs 2,000 under the 'Monthly Pension Scheme to Old and Disabled Artists'. As many as 376 old and destitute artists were being given pension from the Department of Culture in the state till March 2021. With the help of the central government, the number has been increasing every month.

Central Government approves pension for the first time

It was due to efforts of CM Yogi that the Central Government for the first time gave health insurance of Rs one crore and monthly pension of Rs 4000 to elderly artists of the state. In the "Scheme for Pension and Medical Aid to Artist" by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, pension is being given to elderly artists who have made significant contributions in the field of art and literature, but are living in hardship and poverty due to old age.

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MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

October 25, 2010

Mount Merapi in Indonesia witnessed a month- long series of volcanaic eruptions that killed 353 and evacuated over 350,000 people

BACKGROUND

It is located near the centre of the Java Island. Since 2007, short swarms of volcanic earthquakes have occurred, once even sweeping an entire village to sea

MT MERAPI ERUPTS

Mount Merapi has erupted three times, emitting searing clouds and volcanic ash, and sending villagers fleeing. The deadliest was in 1930 killing 1,300 people

AFTER-EFFECTS

Volcanic bombs and heat clouds, with temperatures up to 800°C, spread over a distance of 10 km. Vegetable prices increased because of the damage to crops. 350,000 people fleed

Kranti shooting to begin from today

PG 4

ART WITH A SOUL

Artist Shilo Shiv Suleman's latest piece, an attempt to reclaim the female body as a temple, was auctioned at $56,700 at Sotheby's, New York, recently

ANILA KURIAN

WHEN she set out to work on a wearable brass sculpture, there were multiple moments when she felt that she had taken on an "impossible or illogical" task. But as award-winning Bengaluru artist Shilo Shiv Suleman herself says, the final outcome was magical – in many ways. Temple, which was recently auctioned for $56,700 at Sotheby's, New York, is not only a personal milestone for Suleman but also a much-required validation for South Asian artists on international platforms. "This has helped reclaim the Indian artists' space. In the last so many years, we haven't been given the recognition we deserve. So, when I was asked to participate, I wanted to share a message about our hard work," says Suleman, who worked on the 40-kg piece for six months.

The other side of the story is her personal discovery. When she started work on the piece, she decided to seek out her estranged father, 12 years after he left the family, in an ancestral village in Kerala, where he had returned grudgingly from China out of a lack of choice. "My father left my mother, brother and me more than a decade ago, which is when my mum and I found comfort in art. My mother worked on pieces for months and that became our backbone. It really helped us move forward."

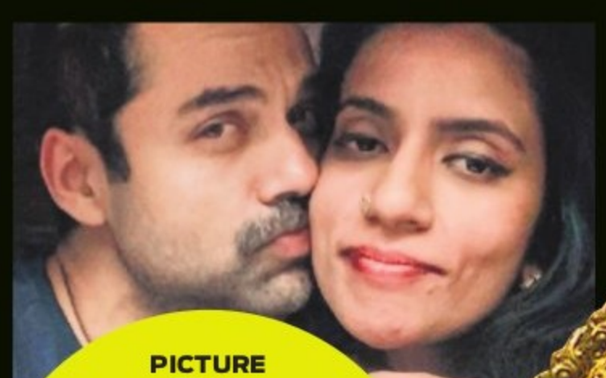
Coming back to the inspiration behind the work, Suleman explains that her father's family, the Nambiars, had been custodians to a small temple in Kannur for as long as the family line could trace. "All the men in our family line had tended to Sree Oorpazhachi Kavu — the temple of the Mother Goddess and her Ancient Grove of Herbs. Temples are not just entered into but also ceremonially worn. These shrines serve as a reminder that sacredness exists within our bodies," says Suleman, adding, "The idea of the artwork is to reclaim the female body as a temple — a site of worship, worthy of devotion."

Once conceptualised, the idea took six months to executive, which she did at a studio in Hawa Mahal, Jaipur, where she worked with local artisans. But owing to travel restrictions, Suleman couldn't be present at the auction herself. Her friend Monica Dogra, an American singer, helped her with a special performance at the auction where 25 women, draped in red sarees and holy water in hand, came together for an actual temple-like procession. "I didn't want Temple to just be an art piece at the exhibition, I wanted it to showcase what it truly means. To get permission for the artwork to be touched after it was already on display was another challenge. But it got the reverence it truly deserved," she says.

While this was being auctioned during Dasara, the artist, who was on a flight from Paris at the time, was hoping for it to be successful, being true to the meaning of the festival and representating a woman's power. "I had estimated it to be auctioned at $50,000, so the final deal exceeded my expectations. When I heard the numbers were going up, I couldn't contain myself. It was amazing to see that recognition that it got," says Suleman.

The idea of my artwork, titled Temple, is to reclaim the female body as a temple — a site of worship, worthy of devotion. I didn't want Temple to just be an art piece at Sotheby's, New York, I wanted it to showcase what it truly means

– **Shilo Shiv Suleman, award-winnning artist**



PICTURE TALK

While Shilo Shiv Suleman is celebrating the recognition of her artwork, the internet is also doing much speculation thanks to a photo posted by Bollywood actor Abhay Deol. Brushing aside the rumours, Suleman feels that work isn't being recognised as it should, because of this "one picture". "It's, honestly, nothing," she says, adding, "We are really good friends and it's just a nice picture."

Suleman's artwork 'Temple'

Debolina Ray, a Bengaluru-based food & travel blogger who runs a blog called She Knows Grub, dishes out fun food-related trivia in this weekly series. So, answer these three questions and find out how much of a foodie you are

GRUB HUB

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'**

The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday.

The first prize winner this week will win a complimentary voucher worth ₹2,000 Soros Flavor Coffee**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1. KFC, Brigade Road 2. FreshMenu 3. iD

FIRST THREE TO GET IT RIGHT

1. Vyome Chaugule
2. Mythri Gowda
3. Veena Woodi

***Conditions apply**

WATCH LIST

SARDAR UDHAM (HINDI)

Streaming: Amazon Prime Video

A young Sardar Udham was left deeply scarred by the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. He escaped into the mountains of Afghanistan to reach London to create a revolution and avenge the massacre. In London, Udham spent the most decisive six years of his life, re-igniting the revolution. After reeling over the wound of April 1919, Udham is all set to assassinate Michael O'Dwyer, the man behind the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

Cast: Vicky Kaushal, Shaun Scott, Stephen Hogan

INDIA'S SPACE ODYSSEY

Streaming: Discovery+

This 47-minute long documentary records the last 60 years of India's space exploration projects. The documentary, narrated by actor R Madhavan in Hindi, goes through the history of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) detailing its achievements and difficulties from the first Indian in space in 1984 to the 2019 Chandrayaan-2 mission into the lunar orbit. The film also documents the number of rumours, conspiracy theories as well as human interest stories surrounding India's involvement with the space sector. The documentary features a number of experts and historians from the Indian space sector as well as the former chairman of the ISRO G Madhavan Nair.

Cast: R Madhavan

IN FOR A MURDER (ENGLISH)

Streaming: Netflix

Fan of murder-mystery stories? Well, here is a treat for you. Magda lives in the Polish town of Podkowa Lesna and deals with family issues. A homemaker and mother of two, Magda is caught in a complex relationship. Her husband also disapproves of her and has an extramarital affair. As Magda takes her dog out for a walk she encounters a dead body that has links to her long-missing friend Weronica.

Cast: Anna Smotowik, Szymon Bobrowski

CITY READ

Deepavali shopping carnival now open

Grand Flea Market is organising a Deepavali shopping carnival till November 2 at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumara Krupa road. The utsav will feature a Deepavali-themed collections including lamps made of metal and clay. Artisans from various parts of the country will be participating. The utsav will be held from 11 am to 7 pm.

After months of virtual shows, this popular Bengaluru choir is back with its first live performance this weekend

Concert calling

ANILA KURIAN

AFTER 18 long months, The Bangalore School of Music, with team The Bangalore Men and Capella Bangalore, is getting ready to take centre stage. Making things quite different this time, the choir will be singing non-classical pieces in addition to Broadway and musical songs. Calling it Bangalore Rhapsody, there will be a collection of songs by Queen, The Beatles, Lloyd-Webber and more. There will also be musical pieces from *West Side Story*, *The Lion King*, *The Man of La Mancha* and more. The concert, consisting of solos, duets and choirs, is backed by pianists Rebecca Thomas Colaco and Shantanu Patel, under the baton of Jonas Olsson, conductor of the choirs and head of the vocal department at The BSM.

Continuing with virtual concerts and practices since the pandemic hit last year, the team is really looking forward to finally performing for a live audience.

Olsson says, "Working virtually was good and we did get some great results, but it's time to go back to the old routine now. We've been practising in person since September."

From recording in solitude, it's a welcome change, as Olsson points out. "All this while we had to practice and record individually, imaging what the whole set would sound like. Now, we can make immediate changes which makes the whole mixing process easier. To top it all, it's so much easier to conduct a concert physically than virtually. But it felt so rustic when we regrouped in September," says Olsson with a laugh.

Capella Bangalore consists of an all-women 42-member crew, while The Bangalore Men, as the name suggests, comprises 22 male singers. "Even during the pandemic, we have a few new recruits. They were working with us virtually, so this one is going to be their first show with us," he says, adding that only a couple of them have left to pursue higher studies. "We're known for singing western classical songs. We love doing it, but since we're coming back after such a long time, we felt a change in the type of music was the right type of explosive return everyone needs," Olsson says.

Performers feed off the energy of the audience, and Colaco is thrilled she can do that again. "As a musician, I am thrilled to be able to practice and perform on stage once again. As musicians, we feed off the energy of the audience and that excites us to perform better. It's amazing to know that both our shows are already sold out — people want live shows once again too, I suppose," Colaco adds.

Bangalore Rhapsody will be performed on October 30, at the Bangalore International Centre, Domlur, and November 13 at East Cultural Association, Indiranagar. For tickets, log on to bookmyshow.com

The choir during at a concert held prior to the outbreak of Covid 19.

As a musician, we feed off the energy of the audience and that excites us to perform better – **Rebecca Thomas Colaco, pianist**

LOL

Unwind after a hectic day and hangout with comedians Rahul Robin, Arvind Sunder and Sparsh Kumar Sinha as they share hilarious jokes at Marcopolo Cafe, Koramangala. **When:** Oct 26 onwards **Details:** bookmyshow.com

FLEA MARKET

SteppinOut by Dineout presents The Village, the city's weekly flea market. There will be food, music, games, sundowner drinks and more at JW Marriot Hotel. **When:** Oct 30 **Details:** bookmyshow.com

JAM WITH MUSIC

Add some tadka and thumkas to your Mondays and hit the dance floor at Tipsy Bull. DJ Hassan hype the nights with 90s music. **When:** Oct 25 onwards **Details:** bookmyshow.com

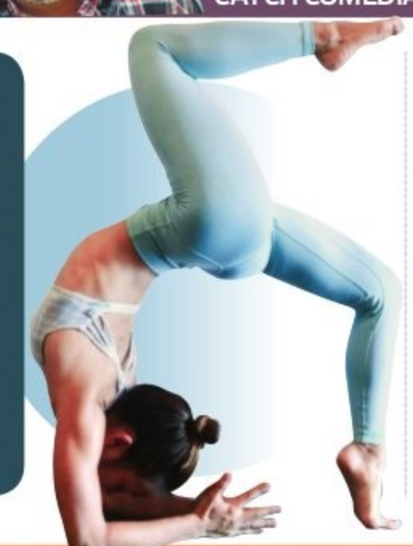
FESTIVE DELIGHT

Enjoy a wide range of handcrafted festive hampers. It includes Deepavali Delight, Sweet Dreams, Delightful Trio, The Box of Love, and Artisanal hamper, containing personalised gourmet goodies. **Where:** The Hebbal Cafe, Courtyard by Marriott **To order:** 9606482934

CATCH COMEDIAN **JEEVESHU AHLUWALIA** SHARE UNCOMMON SENSE JOKES AT JW MARRIOT. **WHEN:** OCT 30 **DETAILS:** BOOKMYSHOW.COM

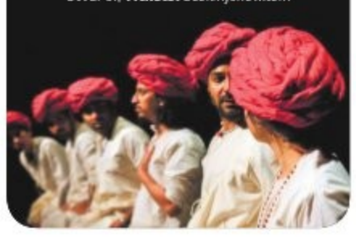
Flex and bend

Join Attakkalari Connect Yoga classes online to learn something new. The live dance class will be taught by Attakkalari faculty and you can learn from the comfort of your home. **When:** Till Oct 27 **Details:** bookmyshow.com



Theatre Festival

As part of the 17th year anniversary, Ranga Shankara is organising The Ranga Shankara Theatre Festival. Spanning over five days, five plays will be staged, including *Kantha Mattu Kantha, Lock Down, Jhund, Kaamarupigal and Hunkaro.* Also catch some interesting ancillary events like short-plays, music shows, among others. **When:** Oct 27-31, **Tickets:** bookmyshow.com



Student Showcase

Artflute presents 'Ungallery-Emerge 2021', an online showcase designed with an aim to create a platform for young artists to increase their exposure amongst potential art enthusiasts and collectors, young and veterans. There are works of painting, drawing, printmaking collage and more. **When:** Till Oct 31 **Details:** artflute.com

Sunday Funday

The Deepavali edition of Sunday Soul Sante is back at Jayamahal Palace Hotel. Join in for fun, food and music. **When:** Oct 31 **Details:** bookmyshow.com

Deepavali Treat

From regional namkeens to handmade sweets, here is a variety of festive delicacies to choose from. It also includes namak para, assorted handmade mathi, murukku, gluten-free rose barfi, badam halwa cakes and more. **To order, visit** Living Food website.

Reel Time

Have a romantic private romantic movie night at Binge Club, HSR Layout. Snackbox, decorations and safe protocols will be taken care of. **When:** Oct 25 onwards **Details:** bookmyshow.com

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN?
We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com

THE LEAN GREEN SMOOTHIE

INGREDIENTS

- **Chilled almond mylk:** 1 cup ■ **Banana:** 1 large
- **Spinach:** 200 g ■ **Peanut butter:** 1.5 tbsp
- **Almonds:** 10 g ■ **Walnuts:** 10 g

METHOD

- Keeping aside the almonds and walnuts, blend the rest of the ingredients till you achieve a smooth consistency.
- Add the almonds and walnuts, and blend it all for half a minute. You can blend further if you want a smoother consistency.

-Liza Thomas, Gurugram

SOUND BOARD

FREAKONOMICS RADIO

Discover the hidden side of everything with Stephen J Dubner, co-author of the Freakonomics books. Each week, it'll tell you things you always thought you knew (but didn't) and things you never thought you wanted to know (but do).
- On Google Podcast

THE HABIT COACH WITH ASHDIN DOCTOR

If you are tired of relying on your fickle motivation to get things done, if you are tired of starting because you fail to see things through, The Habit Coach podcast is for you! Ashdin Doctor, the habit coach, takes you through the creation of simple easy to do habits.
- On Google Podcast

PAINKILLER ALREADY

Painkiller Already is a weekly podcast featuring Woody, Kyle also known as FPS Russia, and Taylor. The podcast has been steam-rolling through the airwaves & YouTube since early 2010.
- On Apple Podcast

YOURS POSITIVELY

This podcast presents you informative contents on mindfulness, self-development and motivation in Tamil which helps you to introspect, realise your best values and reach greater heights.
- On Spotify

PODCASTS FROM NOWHERE WITH UTSAV MAMORIA

The travel podcast takes you on journeys exploring culture, history, food and people in the form of stories. With over a decade of travel stories in his kitty, Utsav Mamoria narrates the stories of the strange, obscure and fascinating things about the world.
- On Apple Podcast

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

AJJI

When an elderly woman's granddaughter is sexually violated by a local politician's son and the police is unable to deliver justice, she decides to take the matter into her own hands.
- Cast: Sharvani Suryavanshi, Smita Tambe, Abhishek Banerjee, Sadiya Siddiqui

KANTEERAVA

Kanti is raised like a son by a rich landlord and does odd jobs at his house. The landlord's daughter loves Kanti. But when Kanti returns from Kerala, he is accompanied by a mentally challenged girl.
- Cast: Shubha Poonja, Duniya Vijay, Rishika Singh, Srinivasa Murthy

F2: N AND FRUSTRATION

Two young men hope to control their wives after their respective marriages. However, their chauvinistic attitude often lands them in hilarious situations.
- Cast: Mehreen Kaur Pirzada, Tammannah Bhatia, Varun Tej

DK

DK, a street smart man, and Subbalakshmi, a politician's daughter, are rivals who have never lost a bet in their lives. But soon their enmity turns into romance.
- Cast: Chaitra Chandranath, Prem, Sharath Lohitashwa

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 HOW YOUR NATURE PHOTOS CAN HELP PROTECT WILD ANIMALS BY TANYA BERGER-WOLF

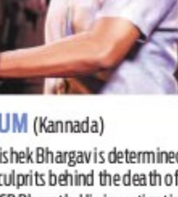
Computational biologist Tanya Berger-Wolf demonstrates how harnessing the power of artificial intelligence and one of the internet's biggest resources — public images and video — supports the crucial collection of data to save threatened wildlife.

2 A CLOSE-TO-HOME SOLUTION FOR ACCESSIBLE CHILDCARE BY CHRIS BENNETT

Childcare needs a transformation — but rather than investing billions in new buildings and schools, what if we could unlock the potential of people already nearby? Entrepreneur Chris Bennett offers an innovative way to tackle the shortage of childcare worldwide and connect families to safe, affordable and high-quality options in their own communities.

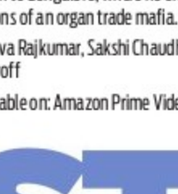
3 WHAT MAKES A FRIENDSHIP LAST? BY MONA CHALABI

Sustaining friendships — and making new friends — can be challenging. So how can we make our friendships last without feeling overwhelmed? To find out, data journalist Mona Chalabi turns to her most trusted sources: data and her mum.



4 HOW MUCH CLEAN ELECTRICTY DO WE REALLY NEED? BY SOLOMON GOLDSTEIN-ROSE

To fight climate change, we need to clean up the global electricity system by replacing fossil fuel power plants with clean generation — right? Climate author Solomon Goldstein-Rose thinks replacement isn't enough; we need to rapidly develop a new global system capable of producing 12 times the amount of clean electricity we generate today.



5 HOW WE COULD EAT REAL MEAT WITHOUT HARMING ANIMALS BY ISHA DATAR

What if you could eat chicken nuggets without harming a chicken? It's possible through "cellular agriculture". In this talk, Isha Datar explains how this new means of food production makes it possible to eat meat without the negative consequences of industrial farming.

FIT BIT

PRAPADASANA

(TIPTOE POSE)

This is a toe-balancing posture that places pressure on and stimulates the calves and ankles. There are different variations of this asana. In this variation, both feet remain on the ground and the hips simply rest on the heels as the yogi balances on the toes. It is said to be beneficial for memory and concentration. Traditionally, it is associated with the Sahasrara Chakra that is said to help yogis experience unity and realise their connection with everything. It can help the yogi to open him/herself up to the Divine while remaining physically grounded.

STEPS

- Begin in Tadasana (Mountain Pose).
- Exhale and come into Malasana (Garland Pose). Then, bring your feet together and slowly lift your heels off the floor.
- Balance your body on your toes and keep your back straight.
- Bring your palms together (in prayer position) and keep the focus in between your eyebrows.
- The knees can be kept together or taken wide apart.
- Stay in the final pose for about 3 to 6 long breaths.
- To come out of this pose, bring your heels down and come into Tadasana and then relax.

BENEFITS

- Regular practice will improve your concentration and sense of balance.
- Helps to strengthen the feet, ankles, calves, knees and thighs.
- Useful for stretching the hip flexors, hamstrings and groins.
- Helps to stimulate the Muladhara (Root Chakra).
- Improves digestion and increases blood flow to the pelvis.
- Aids in losing extra fat in your thighs and belly.

LIMITATIONS

- People who have injuries with their leg, hip, knees, ankles and toes, avoid this.
- People with severe conditions related to sciatica, avoid this.
- Senior citizens, women during pregnancy and menstruation, should get the advice from a yoga expert before practicing this pose.

— by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

LOVE ACTION DRAMA (Malayalam)

Dinesh, a young bachelor, attempts to impress and marry Shobha, a successful businesswoman, with the help of his best friend.

Cast: Nayanthara, Aju Varghese, Nivin Pauly, Vineeth Sreenivasan

- Available on: Disney+Hotstar

LIFT (Tamil)

A usual working day turns unusual for Guru and Harini when they get trapped in their haunted office. A patterned game unlocks a mystery and a lift is their only way out.

Cast: Kavin, Amritha Iyer, Kiran Konda

- Available on: Disney+Hotstar

RATHNAN PRAPANCHA (Kannada)

Unlike his peers who're settled and exploring other avenues in their lives, Ratnakara, an average middle-class guy is stuck in a house with an unwanted companion; his mother, Saroja. Just when things couldn't get any worse Ratnakara gets a phone call that turns his life upside down.

Cast: Dhananjay, Reba Monica John, Umashree

- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

SUNNY (Malayalam)

The life of a failed musician, Sunny takes a dramatic turn as he smuggles himself back from Dubai to Kerala in midst of a global pandemic and shuts himself from society.

Cast: Jayasurya, Shritha Sivadas, Sshivada, Mamta Mohandas

- Available on: Amazon Prime Video

THALAIVI (Hindi)

This movie follows Jayalalithaa's inspiring life journey, who arrived as a young actress in the Tamil film industry. She reaches superstar status and eventually becomes Thalaivi- a powerful figure in the world of politics.

Cast: Kangana Ranaut, Arvind Swamy, Madhoo

- Available on: Netflix

ANNABELLE SETHUPATHI (Hindi)

A scary journey begins when a small-time thief, Rudra enters a haunted castle and gets pulled into the mystery of its mistress, Annabelle Rathore.

Cast: Vijay Sethupathi, Taapsee Pannu, Surekha Vani

- Available on: Disney+Hotstar

RUSTUM (Kannada)

ACP Abhishek Bhargav is determined to find the culprits behind the death of his friend, DCP Bharath. His investigation takes him to Bengaluru, where he uncovers revelations of an organ trade mafia.

Cast: Shiva Rajkumar, Sakshi Chaudhary, Tiger Shroff

- Available on: Amazon Prime Video

ENGLISH

YOU (Series)

A charming yet awkward crush becomes something even more sinister when the writer becomes the manager's obsession. Using social media and the Internet, he uses every tool at his disposal to become close to her, even going so far as to remove any obstacle — including people — that stands in his way of getting to her.

Cast: Penn Badgley, Victoria Pedretti, Elizabeth Lail

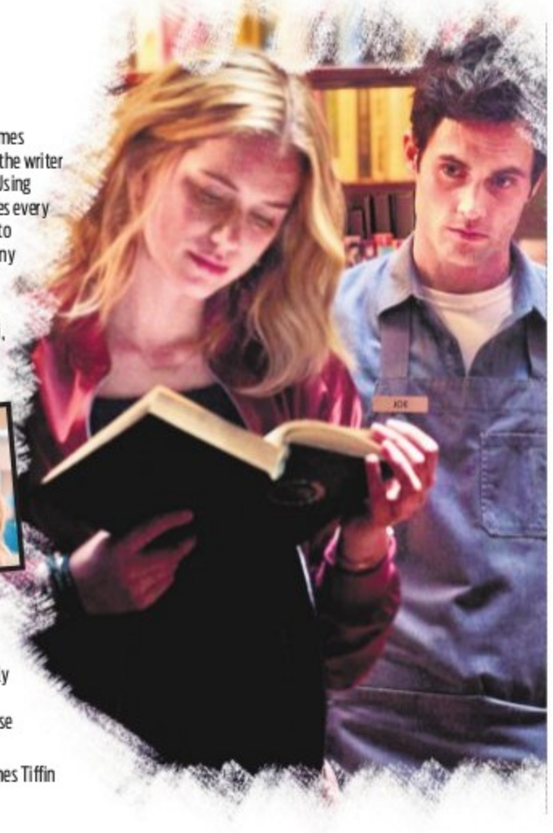
- Available on: Netflix

AFTER WE FELL

As Tessa makes a life-changing decision, revelations about her family and Hardin's past threaten to derail her plans and end the couple's intense relationship.

Cast: Josephine Langford, Hero Fiennes Tiffin

- Available on: Netflix



FLEABAG (Series)

A dry-witted woman, known only as Fleabag, has no filter as she navigates life and love in London while trying to cope with tragedy. The angry, grief-riddled woman tries to heal while rejecting anyone who tries to help her, but Fleabag continues to keep up her bravado through it all.

Cast: Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Sian Clifford, Andrew Scott

- Available on: Amazon Prime Video

KEVIN CAN F**K HIMSELF (Series)

Set in Worcester, Mass., the series follows the journey of Allison McRoberts, a stereotypically smart and beautiful sitcom wife, who is married to Kevin, a husky, self-centred man-child who is clearly punching above his weight.

Cast: Annie Murphy, Eric Petersen, Mary Hollis Inboden, Alex Bonifer

- Available on: Amazon Prime Video

SUBSCRIPTION

- **Disney+Hotstar:** ₹ 399 per month
- **Sony Liv:** ₹ 299 per month
- **Prime Video:** ₹ 129 per month
- **Mubi:** ₹ 499 per month

THE SHOE FIT!

A cake that resembles Cinderella's shoe

RUBINATIONS
Rubi Chakravarti
Writer, actor and funny girl

EVERY day that we deem important enough to celebrate, comes with its own set of learnings. As one grows older (and hopefully, wiser), one relies on epiphanies and... new-age gurus! If the gurus don fashionable robes and drive roaring Harley Davidsons then their credibility and relatability soar. Fashion conscious wise-men who talk today's lingo, travel in their private jets, ride their snazzy bikes and talk freely on a range of subjects are deemed. 'super kosher'. As Indians, we are still terribly self-conscious talking about a taboo subject like 'sex' (never mind if our population is burgeoning at an astounding 1.6 billion) and, if a guru talks about it in the presence of elders, then he immediately gets the tag of 'uber-cool'!

Well, I have been listening intently to a 'guru' (on the insistence of my best friend) and I was pleasantly surprised to get many small breakthroughs by his lectures. The primary breakthrough was that we are all responsible for our own happiness and health. Being human, we thrive on misnomers like other people give us happiness. NAG (acronym for 'new-age guru') says a big NO! Happiness is our responsibility and we must choose to be with someone who adds to it. And ditto as far as our health and well-being goes too. Doctors, friends and lovers are facilitators to one's own happiness! Quod Erat Demonstrandum (QED). Quite eloquently done!

Manas Krishnamoorthy and Sachin Maheshwari

A newly-enlightened person is an enthusiastic person and I am no different. I keenly hung onto every word of what my 'NAG' says. Amidst all the guru gobble-de-gook, he said, "People will treat you exactly the way you treat yourself." Very simple but succinct! I was averse to the Deepak Chopraesque 'love yourself' jargon because quite simply...I didn't know how to. Well, my NAG was way cooler (lit). I decided to treat myself better. (Putting one first comes very reluctantly to an average Indian mother and wife!)

Firstly, I decided to accept my good friend Manas Krishnamoorthy's invitation to spend my birthday weekend at the ITC Windsor (it pays to have dear friends in the right places). The red, blue and gold carpet was rolled out. The hotel has an old-world charm and of course the service and the food were impeccable. But, it's the people who make the hotel. Every single time we ate at one of their iconic restaurants, the chef- de- cuisine would come out, meet us and generally be talking and laughing with us.

Manas invited the family to a 'royal repast' (his words not mine) along with another good friend Sachin Maheshwari and my family. Needless to say we got drunk on the food, whose courses were hand-picked. Many times I would glace over at my young friends, seated to the right and left of me, and feel special at their solicitous attention and see them having a raucous time with my children too! The world was treating me like I was treating myself...special!

Just to walk on thin ice, the very next day I phoned my favourite brand and spoke to my personal-shopper. I had shortlisted three handbags and I asked them to send it to my suite (I was on the roll you see!). And lo and behold they did! Their liveried and gloved personnel brought my choices to the hotel where I chose a particular piece and then told them to gift wrap and bring it back on the next day...my birthday! They did with much fanfare and with all the flowers and presents I received, I loved every minute of it.

On the last staycation night we tried to have a simple soup/sandwich type dinner, but after much stage whispering, the pastry chefs brought out a fabulous cake in the shape of a red shoe. My dream birthday was done.

I felt like Princess Cinderella and the shoe fit!

DONNA EVA

WITH the festive season comes a number of concerns, particularly about weight watching. Nidhi Nahata, founder of the JustBe Resto Café in Sadashiva Nagar, has just the thing to ease your mind about it. The cafe is an oil-free vegan and vegetarian cafe and, at the start of this month, put out a 30-day meal prep challenge for anyone willing to take it up.

The challenge entails those who sign up follow a regime of clean and healthy eating for 30 days, with the café delivering lunch and dinner to the participants and advising them on how to eat healthy, providing recipes for smoothies and herbal teas, and various other methods for a clean and healthy diet. The café offers a range of wholefood and plant-based meals and the challenge reflects that as well with meals ranging from palak rotis and aloo malai to macaroni and cheese, and a variety of pizzas.

The meal plan is versatile and thorough with a must-do check-up for every participant at the start of the plan to gauge their health and each meal catered specially to them based on their allergies, dietary requirements, and preferences, as well as on whether they need extra protein for working out amongst other things. The plan is also versatile in terms of when and how they are arranged, with the option to deliver the meals directly to the participants' workplaces every day at a designated time.

"We're trying to break this myth that healthy and clean eating is boring," says Nahata of both the café and the challenge. She introduced the challenge as a way to make healthy eating more fun and easily accessible to people who want to understand and eat clean. "We use nothing refined, no maida, no sugar, no dairy, meat or honey. We don't fry food at all Even when we cook, we don't use a microwave or anything aluminum because even the preparation matters," she says.

We use nothing refined. No maida, sugar, dairy, meat or honey. We don't fry food at all. We're trying to break this myth that healthy and clean eating is boring

Nidhi Nahata, founder, JustBe Resto Cafe

Fun, fit and festive

This cafe is offering a subscription-based vegan meal plan, to give Bengalureans an introduction to healthy living

The meal plan is priced at a base rate of ₹18,500 with the café offering a number of discounts and vouchers as well as free check-ups.

PAIRED WITH PANACHE
Anuja Pandey
(The author is social media influencer @loftyspectrums and lifestyle coach)

The conch for the festive season has been blown with Dasara which now gives way to Deepavali, Bhai Dooj and others. We are a rich land of heritage, culture and history. India and her royalty have been a patron of art and magnificence. The opulence, regal grace and charisma of the royal pieces of jewellery are synonymous with royal identity and Indian festivals. The celebration of festivities is thus an ode to this brilliance of Indian culture, and jewellery adornment, an ode to this patronage of royal splendour.

An amalgamation of sensuality and sophistication is the trending look this season. The imperial beauty of diamonds, set with semi-precious coloured stones like rubies, emeralds, sapphires or amethysts, are taking centre stage, thereby making contemporary jewellery befitting for any occasion.

Layered sets

The layered look spells the unsaid glamour and charisma of a royal stature and upholds the grace and majestic look all the way. The three-tiered necklace takes inspiration from the Kings of Patialas whose designs highlighted the pearls and diamonds' swirls, thus clubbing the royal look with a hint of modern glamour.

Statement earrings

If you want to make a fashion statement, then statement earrings are your best bet. They demand attention without having to go overboard with jewellery. Climbers, crawlers, ear cuffs, constellations... all of these make for great choices today. These earrings with detailed work and motifs inspired from nature sit beautifully on the ear lobes.

Cuffs and armlets

Bold and beautiful cuff bracelets will immediately make you the main character of any setting. The loud and proud cuffs that could be worn as armlets, bracelets or even as chokers are fashion statements today. Revathi Kant, chief design officer, Titan Company, says, "This year, the festive season is going to be all about celebrating today and the spirit to truly live it up. The trend in jewellery is shifting towards the 'minimalism of maximalism'. There is a significant inclination towards contemporary jewellery with a blend of both ethnicity and modernity. While layering chains and chokers are gaining huge attention, an amalgamation of geometric design in jewellery is becoming the ultimate trend. Also, while people are continuing to work in a hybrid environment, the 'above the keyboard' dressing uptrend has risen demand for statement earrings, ear cuffs, linear drop and studs. The festive look is incomplete without a glint of gold. The scintillating jewellery made from gold with embedded colourful stones seamlessly complements the traditional and Indo-western outfits to give an expansive look."

Any well-crafted piece of jewellery is a sign of sophistication. Whatever it is, personal style has to be ageless regardless of fashion. So, adorn yourself with timeless elegance with these jewellery trends and be loud and be proud.

SPOOKTOBER SERVED WITH A SIDE OF ZOMBIES

ARE YOU GAME?
Anusha Ganapathi
@quofles
(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

You haven't read this column for long enough if you aren't aware of my appreciation of a good zombie game. It feels empowering to crush a horde of snarling monsters in the wake of an Armageddon. Leave aside the genre for a moment. It's becoming increasingly hard to coordinate and play a decent co-operative game with friends, because everyone operates on a different console. The second thing you should know about me, is my appreciation of a game that allows cross-play.

The forces of the apocalypse genre and cross-platform play combined brings... *drum roll*... Back 4 Blood! 12 years after Left 4 Dead 2, and post a successful open beta, Back 4 Blood is finally available across platforms — the Xboxes, the PSes, and the PC. Back 4 Blood introduces zombies in higher definition than before, in completely new scenarios. To fight them we are now armed with new weapons, and fresh characters.

The main campaign of this game is divided into four acts, each with multiple chapters. As the game progresses, the hordes of zombies get more aggressive, and there are newer infected variants to defeat. Simultaneously, the game introduces us to the different characters or "Cleaners". Each Cleaner has a superhero film worthy intro. Introducing Mom, with her extra life. Evangelo, who runs a lot. There's Doc and Karlee, who are villainously dangerous. Eight in total, as of now. They are built to suit all types of combat preferences.

While the right player combinations are important for campaign progression, it's not sufficient to get ahead. The game introduces a deck-building system with a variety of cards. There are cards that offer health and stamina upgrades, and some that are specific to a combat method. I considered this addition as excessive "nerd" for what was a pure brute-force game of slashing zombies. But the cards do help! Aggregating card benefits help in reducing the panic-inducing chaos of zombie hordes, and additional equipment slots work wonders in bleak situations. It provides an opportunity to change the experience of a chapter run, making it more fun during a replay.

We're only halfway through Spooktober, but I doubt we'll see a better FPS zombie game this generation. I rate Back4Blood a 10/10 for having me reach back for more.

CITY READ

Art exhibition on Oct 27

Kaliyug – the brainchild of young artists Rishikesh Kalyan and Mansa Kalyan is back in full swing with its second edition. The specially-curated artwork displayed at the exhibition reflects upon the ecological perils and conveys a message around environmental conservation. The proceeds from this art exhibition-cum-sale will be donated to Akshaya Patra Foundation.
The event will take place at Chitrakala Parishath, Kumarakrupa Road, on October 27, at 4pm. Entry is free

Electric vehicle experience centre inaugurated

Piaggio Vehicles, a subsidiary of the Italian Piaggio Group, inaugurated Karnataka's second electric vehicle (EV) experience centre at Mobility Motors recently. The centre was inaugurated by B Sriramulu, the state's minister for transport and tribal welfare and the event's chief guest. He handed over 150 vehicle keys to customers. The experience centre will allow customers to access Piaggio's electric vehicles. Piaggio had recently launched their fixed battery range of electric vehicles in both the cargo and passenger segments.
The new products will be available at Mobility Motors, Bengaluru.

Darshan

Darshan, speaks to *CE* ahead of the shooting of his upcoming pan-India film, *directed by V Harikrishna*

KRANTI BEGINS FOR THE CHALLENGING STAR

A SHARADHAA

THERE has been a lot of buzz around Darshan's upcoming multilingual film, *Kranti,* and the Challenging star too is excited to return to film sets and face the camera after nearly two years.

Talking about *Kranti's* muhurath event, Darshan reminisced about a similar event from his debut film, *Majestic.* The actor, who is popularly known as D Boss among his fans, spoke to us ahead of beginning the shoot for *Kranti.* "Shooting for films, being in film sets, and working for back-to-back projects was a routine in my life, which I did till my 53rd film, *Roberrt.* But I was cut off from filming due to the pandemic. As an actor, this was the longest break of my career. So I had butterflies in my stomach when I was attending the muhurath of *Kranti,* and it was such a thrilling moment to hear 'action' and to see the director take the first shot," says Darshan.

The pan India film brings back the *Yajamana* combination of actor Darshan, director V Harikrishna, and the production house, Media House Studios. Billed to be a mass commercial entertainer, the film's concept-based poster featured Darshan, interestingly designed with alphabets, and had the tagline, Learn to fight alone. Director Harikrishna had called it an "akshara kranti"

"Akshara which means alphabets, and the letters are essential in our lives. The director has conceived a novel subject, which will be told in an entertaining way," says Darshan, who refrained from divulging many details about his role and the film. "The artiste in me always aims to entertain the audience to the fullest. While I make sure to fulfill the audience's wish to see me portraying different characters, I also make sure the subject we present is underlined with strong morals. And with *Kranti,* we will entertain as well as educate," says Darshan.

Kranti marks Darshan's second collaboration with composer-turned-director V Harikrishna after *Yajamana.* "*Yajamana* was a film, which did well at the box office, and content-wise too, it set a good example. The director took time with his next move and wanted to deliver a good film with strong content. With producers Shylaja Nag and Suresha B too known for backing good films, we felt *Kranti* was the best subject for us to reunite after *Yajamana,*" he says.

Starring Rachita Ram opposite Darshan, *Kranti* also features Ravichandran in a pivotal role. "After *Kurukshetra*, we didn't have a script that could bring us together again till *Kranti* happened. Ravichandran has a powerful role to play in this film, and I am looking forward to working with him again," he signs off.

RAVICHANDRAN TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN VIJAY SANKESHWAR'S BIOPIC

Ravichandran

The film, helmed by Rishika Sharma, stars Nihal Rajput in the titular role along with Anant Nag in the lead cast

CE FEATURES

Trunk-fame director Rishika Sharma's next will be a biopic on Padma Shri Vijay Sankeshwar. The film will have actor Ravichandran play a prominent role, which was launched at a grand muhurath on Sunday. The event was attended by the family and friends of Vijay Sankeshwar along with Golden Star in attendance.

The biopic, which will feature Nihal Rajput in the titular role, has veteran actor Anant Nag playing his father, BG Sankeshwar. Ravichandran's character comes in the 1970s backdrop, and the makers revealed that the actor's look will be a surprise element in the film. The shooting of the film will begin at Huballi.

The biopic will trace the journey of Vijay Sankeshwar, who began with owning a single truck, and is now a major tycoon of the transport industry, a media baron, and a politician.

The film will be VRL Film Productions' maiden venture and will be produced by Anand Sankeshwar. Nihal, Rishika, and editor Hemanth Kumar have worked on the script, which has Gopi Sundar scoring the music, and Keerthan Pujari handling the camerawork for the film.

Meghana Gaonkar

MEGHANA GAONKAR GETS ON BOARD *SHIVAJI SURATHKAL 2*

The actor will play a cop in the sequel starring Ramesh Aravind, and directed by Akash Srivatsa

CE FEATURES

Meghana Gaonkar is set to join the cast of Ramesh Aravind's upcoming sequel *Shivaji Surathkal 2,* and the actor will be donning a khaki in the sequel directed by Akash Srivatsa. Meghana will play the role of Deputy Commissioner of Police, Crime Branch in the film that will be about the "mysterious case of Mayavi."

Confirming the news of Meghana coming on board, Akash, who also directed the first instalment, says, she is the boss of Shivaji, and her role will not be a regular cop. "Today's young women get good posting in an officer's cadre, and we wanted to showcase it through her character. Meghana's role not only is the "power" of the film but also helps Shivaji in handling the case. Since this is a murder mystery, she also has another shade, which will be revealed later," says the director.

Meghana, who was last seen in *Kalidasa Kannada Maestru,* is now gearing up to begin shooting for *Shivaji Surathkal 2* in November. Backed by Rekha KN and Anup Gowda, Shivaji Surathkal has Advaitha Gurumurthy handling the cinematography. The film also stars Radhika Narayan, Raaghu Raamanakoppa, and Vidya Murthy, who would be reprising their roles from the original.

Release date of *Tom and Jerry* announced

The film, directed by Raghav Vinay Shivagange, and starring Nischith Korodi and Chaithra Rao, will be released on Nov 12

CE FEATURES

Raaghav Vinay Shivagange's upcoming film, *Tom and Jerry,* which has been certified U/A, will hit theatres on November 12. *Gantumoote* hero Nischith Korodi and *Mayabazar* actor Chaithra Rao are playing the leads in this relationship drama.

Announcing the release date, the makers also shared that the teaser of the film will be released on November 2. The film gained popularity after Sid Sriram's debut Kannada song, *Hayagide Edeyolage*, composed by Mathews Manohar, went viral, especially on Instagram reels. The second track, *Kaadhal Nee Annale,* too received a similar response, and the album is clearly one of the strengths of the film.

Bankrolled under the Riddhi Siddhi Films banner, Tom and Jerry also stars Tara, Jai Jagadish, Rangayana Raghu, Kaddipudi Chandru, Padmaja Rao, Gunakshekar, and Prakash Tumbinadu. The film's cinematography is handled by Sanketh.

Nischith Korodi and Chaithra Rao

Akshay Kumar starts filming for *OMG 2*

CE FEATURES

Akshay Kumar has started filming for *OMG 2.* Directed by Amit Rai, the sequel also features Yami Gautam and Pankaj Tripathi. Akshay shared a poster of himself as Lord Shiva. It also shows a young boy with a backpack.

Akshay said *OMG 2* will reflect an 'important social issue.'

"Need your blessings and wishes for *OMG 2,* our honest and humble attempt to reflect on an important social issue. May the eternal energy of Adiyogi bless us through this journey," he tweeted.

Released in 2012, *OMG: Oh My God!* was about an atheist man (Paresh Rawal) who sues God after his shop is razed. Akshay had portrayed the role of Lord Krishna in the Umesh Shukla directorial.

Akshay recently completed the Ooty schedule of *Ram Setu.* His forthcoming releases are *Sooryavanshi, Bachchan Pandey, Prithviraj, Raksha Bandhan* and *Atrangi Re.*

Esha Gupta

Esha Gupta to star opposite Suniel Shetty in *Invisible Woman*

CE FEATURES

Esha Gupta is set to star in the upcoming web series, *Invisible Woman.* The series, backed by Yoodlee Films and directed by Rajesh M Selva, will mark Suniel Shetty's OTT debut.

Talking about being part of *Invisible Woman,* Esha says, "Not long ago, the writing of our films was such that women were restricted to either goody-two-shoes or oomph vamps. I felt so constricted for a few years. With OTT giving movies a healthy competition, the general writing of stories has evolved. I am getting an array of parts, some of which make me wonder if I can pull it off. That's really what actors should feel when they get a script."

"I played a cop recently in Nakaab and my character in Invisible Woman can't be more different. I genuinely feel the joy of going to work every day. There's a spring in my step because I am finally getting to play women I know, I have met. Their challenges, ordeals, and dilemmas feel real to me. I am working more than I ever have because finally what's offered to me is resonating with me," the actress adds.

Suniel said, "A web series today must have something to set it apart from the barrage of narratives that already exist, and the story of Invisible Woman immediately captured my attention."

A still from the film